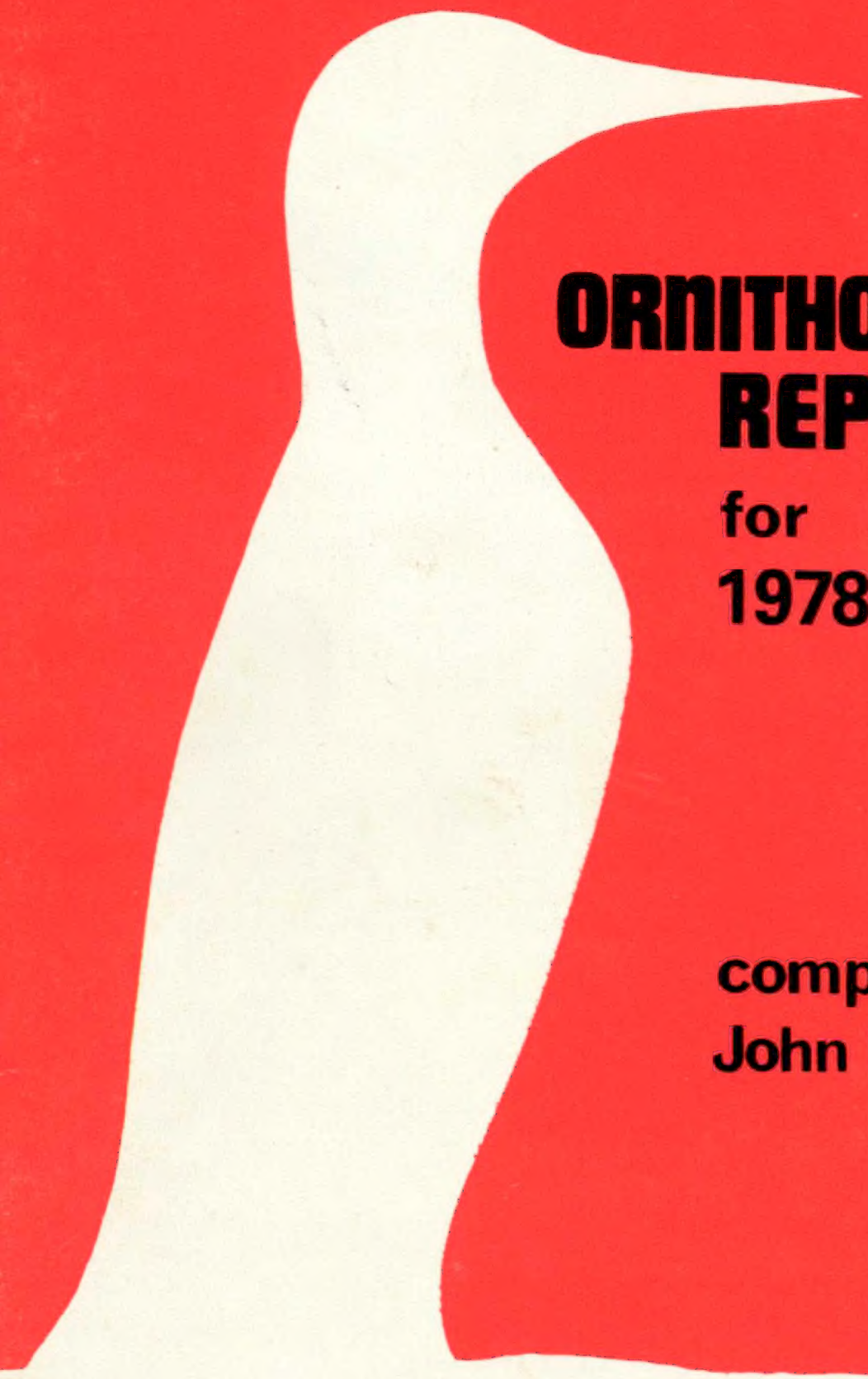
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

for

1978

compiled by:

John R. Mather

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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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Recorders:

V.C. 61—W. F. Curtis, 17 College Gardens, Hornsea. Tel. 2477.

V.C. 62—R. H. Appleby, 38 Tennyson Avenue, Scarborough. Tel. 63941.

V.C. 63—J. E. Dale, 158 Lindley Moor Road, Huddersfield. Tel. 652453.

V.C. 64—John R. Mather, 44 Aspin Lane, Knaresborough. Tel. 862775.

V.C. 65—B. Shorrock, 7 East View, Settle. Tel. 2776.

The recorders, together with A. J. Wallis (Secretary) form the Reports Committee.

REPORT FOR 1978 Edited by John R. Mather

No fewer than six new species were added to the Yorkshire list of birds in 1978. These were a Black Duck watched at Fairburn Ings by Steve Madge on 20th December, a Semi-palmated Sandpiper seen by Iain Wallace at Faxfleet on 6th October, four records of Laughing Gull, one at Fairburn Ings and three on the coast in the Flamborough/Bridlington area, a Citrine Wagtail seen by G. D. Moore at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 24th April, a Booted Warbler caught and ringed at Kilnsea on 9th September and a Radde's Warbler also caught and ringed at Spurn on 14th October. It will be a long time before we repeat such an enrichment of our county avifauna.

The following chronological summary lists some of the years highlights but is very selective and full details can be found in the classified list.

The Bewick's Swans on the Lower Derwent peaked at 146 on 15th January and remained to mid March. Brent Geese at Spurn peaked at 50 on 17th and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge had spectacular Wigeon numbers at this time with 4,800 on 7th and 7,000 on 21st, the largest number ever recorded for the area. 2,000 were on the Lower Derwent during the month. Two duck Red-crested Pochards were at Hornsea Mere on several January dates. 304 Red-throated Divers passed Filey and 278 at Scarborough on 14th and one was inland at Tophill Low Res. on 20th. Ten Waxwings at Scarborough on 8th was the only flock in a poor year for the species. A Red Kite was near Harrogate on 21st. Fieldfares were numerous with a large flock of 1,500 at Settle on 2nd and a roost of Redwings at Harrogate involved 1,000 birds during the early part of the month and 4,000 roosted at Stainborough Castle during the period. A Sooty Shearwater off Scarborough on 28th was an isolated bird and 1,290 Fulmars flew north off Flamborough on 30th. Five Bean Geese arrived at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th and stayed until 19th February. 245 Snow Buntings were in the Kilnsea area at the month end.

February brought the coldest spell of the winter and water birds were much in evidence as they moved after being frozen off the smaller waters. The coast was good for Red-necked Grebes and Filey and Flamborough had several sightings during the month and one was inland at Southfield Res. on 21st. Eight Bean Geese were at Burniston on 12th, 4,000 Wigeon were on the Lower Derwent during the month and 6,500 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge to the 19th. A Ferruginous Duck was at Tophill Low Res. from the 26th. A Great Northern Diver was at Ingbirchworth Res. from 1st to 11th and a Black-throated Diver was at Swinsty Res. from 10th to 15th when it was found dead on the ice.

1,500 Fieldfares were at East Cottingwith on 5th and a Serin was caught at Spurn on 14th. Filey had a peak of 75 Lapland Buntings on 14th and 60 on 19th and 32 Snow Buntings were inland in Upper Nidderdale on 11th.

March produced Red-necked Grebes at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd and Wheldrake Ings on 19th. The first migrants were a Wheatear at Digley Res. on 11th, a Sand Martin at Denaby Ings on 13th and five at Fairburn on 16th. A Golden Eagle was seen at Leighton Res. on 18th. A Firecrest was at Flamborough on 29th and Scandinavian Rock Pipits were moving along the coast from mid-month.

The first Swallow was at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st April followed by one at Fairburn Ings on 8th and the first influx during the third week when House Martins also arrived. The first Swift was at York on 21st and the first small influx from the 24th. Single Hoopoes were at York on 22nd, Grimston on 29th and Filey on 30th. A Wryneck was inland at Leighton Res. on 28th. The first county record of Citrine Wagtail was at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th and a Nightingale was at Flamborough on 29th. A Rough-legged Buzzard was in Bransdale on 2nd and Ospreys appeared at three widely separated localities on 30th and a Gannet was seen inland at Kellington on this date. Flamborough had a Balearic Shearwater on 15th and Fulmars were passing at the month end including 25 'blues' at Filey on 27th and 41 at Flamborough on 30th. A White Stork was at Greenfield in V.C. 63 on 7th and a Purple Heron at Tophill Low Res. on 26th. The latter place had a Slavonian Grebe in summer plumage on 28th. A Spotted Crake was at Flamborough on 8th, a Firecrest was inland at Askham Bryan on 11th and another was at Burniston on 23rd. A Corncrake was near Selby during mid month.

May is always interesting and this year was no exception. Ten Wrynecks at Flamborough on 1st and 23 next day was a good way to start the month. Several other coastal places had the species during the early period and one was inland at Settle on 4th. A Red-footed Falcon at Flamborough on 1st, a Savi's Warbler on 6th and an Ortolan Bunting from 1st to 3rd with another on 25th were all exciting records. A Corncrake was at Sunk Island on 4th, a Crane at Mowthorpe on 5th and a Quail at Wheldrake on same date. On the 6th, in fog, four Great Crested Grebes landed on a cliff top pond at Bempton. A female Bullfinch of the northern form was at Spurn from 1st to 14th and a Rustic Bunting was at Flamborough from 21st to 23rd. A Hoopoe was at Burniston on 12th, another at Blacktoft Sands on 18th, a White Winged Black Tern at Hornsea Mere on 13th and a Red Crested Pochard there on three dates to mid month. Two Egyptian Geese were at Halsham on 19th. A Montagu's Harrier at Blacktoft Sands on 17th/18th was followed by a Honey Buzzard at Flamborough on 21st on which date Tophill Low Res. had a Temminck's Stint. Potteric Carr had a Temminck's Stint from 13th to 17th and a party of 12 Dotterel were on a western hill on 20th. An inland Woodchat near Doncaster on 28th was an interesting occurrence. Filey had a Kentish Plover on 29th/30th, Wheldrake Ings had a Night Heron on 30th and Fairburn had a Pratincole on 31st. An Excellent month!

June kicked off with a Marsh Warbler at Scarborough on 1st and a male Rustic Bunting at Flamborough on 4th. A Golden Oriole at Spurn on 10th was followed by a Wilson's Phalarope at Whiteholme Res. on 13th/14th. On the 12th, 1,450 Fulmars flew north off Flamborough and a Black-throated Diver in summer plumage was there on 17th and a Cory's Shearwater flew north on 25th. A Ruddy Duck appeared at Staveley Lagoon on 22nd and stayed to mid July and a Ruddy Shelduck was at Fairburn from the 28th. A Quail called at Ripon during the month.

July saw the start of the skua passage but only small numbers were involved as the forerunners went through. An Alpine Swift at Flamborough on 1st and two Black Guillemots were there on the 2nd when another was at Filey. Hornsea had a Gull-billed Tern on the 19th and single Cory's Shearwaters were off Flamborough on 16th, 22nd and 29th with a Balearic on the latter date; one was at Scarborough on 5th. A Ruddy Shelduck was at Bretton Park on 2nd and a Stone Curlew was at Hawkser on 28th.

August was good for the coastal habitués and opened spectacularly on the 1st when a large sea movement occurred. Manx Shearwaters were well in evidence and 1,514 passed north off Scarborough during the day together with 32 Sooties, 18 Bonxies, 15 Arctic Skuas, nine Eiders, 271 Scoters and 12 Little Gulls and 3,000 Fulmars and 751 Manxies passed Filey. The movement was witnessed at the other favourite watching places along the coast. Towards the month end, skua passage was in full swing. On the 20th, 100 Arctics were seen off Filey and 128 off Flamborough. Spurn had 186 on 26th and on the 28th, four were inland

at Swillington Ings and two at Wintersett Res. (there were 20 inland skuas during the year) and 26 Long-tails were recorded in the autumn from the 6th. 15 Great Shearwaters were seen between the 6th and 30th and single Cory's were at Flamborough on 12th and Spurn on 28th. 1,003 Sooties passed Flamborough on 26th and many others were seen elsewhere during the period. 1,400 Gannets also passed o n the 26th with the movement also witnessed at Spurn and Filey. A Tawny Pipit was at Filey on 7th and single Dotterels were at Bempton on 12th and Filey on 16th. Away from the coast, there was a Montagu's Harrier near Ripon and a Stone Curlew at Blackmoorfoot on 18th and a Wryneck was found dead in York at the month end. A Leach's Petrel flew across the M1 motorway near Wakefield on 30th but it was to be the coast which provided the parting shot with a Little Shearwater at Flamborough on 31st.

September opened with spectacular shearwater movements. On the 2nd, 456 Sooties passed Flamborough with 551 on 19th and 320 on 20th. Two Little Shearwaters were seen on the 3rd. A Cory's was at Spurn on 16th and three on 17th. Two Great Shearwaters at Flamborough on 12th, singles on 16th and 18th and a remarkable total of 13 on 20th. A series of Laughing Gulls, a species new to the county list may have involved only two individuals; one at Flamborough on 19th, one at Bridlington on 28th and one inland at Fairburn Ings from 24th into October. A Bonxie was inland at Fly Flatts Res. on 5th. A Red-throated Diver in summer plumage was at Wintersett Res. on 11th and three Ferruginous Ducks were at Potteric Carr on 10th. A Bittern occurred at Blacktoft Sands on 21st and eight more were seen in the county before the year end. A Corncrake at Spurn on 11th occurred at a time of some passerine activity along the coast. A Booted Warbler at Spurn on 9th was a new bird for the county, a Woodlark was there on 10th and a Scarlet Rosefinch was at Flamborough on 9th. A flush of nearctic waders from mid month brought a dowitcher to Potteric Carr on 12th, a Lesser Yellowlegs to Flamborough on 16th, a Wilson's Phalarope to Ossett on 26th and a White-rumped Sandpiper to Wath on 27th which stayed to 12th October. A Blue-winged Teal also occurred, at Fairburn on 12th. There was a marked influx of Little Stints from mid month when 25 were in the Upper Humber on 10th and smaller flocks at several other places to the month end.

Sea watchers and those who patrol the coastline will remember 1st October for a long time. Sooty Shearwaters were passing in large numbers including 316 at Spurn, 216 at Hornsea and 430 at Flamborough. Three Little Shearwaters were at Flamborough as was a Storm Petrel and six Leach's flew north. Another was found dead inland at Barnsley on same day. Gannets were also on the move and two Spoonbills came in at Flamborough, a Red-breasted Goose was at Spurn, an exhausted Quail was seen at Grimston, a Red-necked Phalarope and two Red-necked Grebes were at Flamborough where skuas included 46 Bonxies and 11 Pomarines with 72 Bonxies seen further south off Hornsea. On the 6th, Spurn had two Yellow-browed Warblers and a Semi-palmated Sandpiper at Faxfleett was another addition to the Yorkshire list. A Montagu's Harrier was at Easington on 9th and a large thrush immigration occurred during the period 11th to 14th. Single Richard's Pipits were at Spurn on 11th and 29th and one was at Scarborough on 14th and Woodlarks were at Flamborough on 13th and at Grimston on 16th. Yet another county first was a Radde's Warbler caught at Spurn on 14th. A Red-throated Diver was inland at Blackmoorfoot on 16th and a Ring-necked Duck was at Tophill Low Res. from 21st into November. The first Fieldfare influx occurred on 26th when 8,000 came in at Spurn. The last Swift of the year was at Sheffield on 19th. Lapland Buntings at Flamborough peaked at 51 on 11th and Spurn had a spectacular movement of Twites with 145 on 2nd, 179 on 8th, 162 on 11th and 149 on 12th.

November was comparatively quiet but a Laughing Gull was at Bridlington on 13th. Inland waters fared well with a Red-crested Pochard at Knotford Nook on 4th and a Red-throated Diver on 25th and a Ruddy Duck was at Mickletown Ings on 18th. 220 Snow Buntings were near Withernsea on 25th and 33 Little Auks flew north at Flamborough on 26th.

After a Demoiselle Crane at Burniston on 3rd, December's highlights were in the main aquatic; three Red-necked Grebes at Flamborough on 3rd, one on 7th and two on 17th, 62 Red-throated Divers on 16th and 'hundreds' of dark Fulmars on 17th. Wintersett Res. had a Ferruginous Duck on 2nd and Fairburn had Yorkshire's first Black Duck on 20th. A

Rough-legged Buzzard was in the Ewden Valley on 26th and a Black-throated Diver was at Fairburn on 30th and probably the same one at Wintersett Res. next day.

I am grateful to the many observers who have contributed to this very full report. We are fortunate in Yorkshire to have a great diversity of habitat within easy reach and the advantages of this will be obvious from the long and varied species list which follows. Every record is important, no matter how insignificant it may seem at the time and many of the summaries and comments could not be written without the mass of data which never gets directly into print. Thanks must go to my colleagues on the Reports Committee for their assistance and co-operation during the year and to Ray Hawley and Dave Pullan who have supplied the line drawings and to John Hartley and Geoff Neal for their photographs.

John R. Mather, *Chairman*, Reports Committee, June 1980

New Recorder for Vice-County 64

Paul Singleton of Leeds took over the duties as recorder for V.C. 64 in 1979. Born in Bradford and educated in Leeds, he is currently a director of a small engineering company. He has been actively interested in birds for 20 years and became a member of the Leeds Birdwatchers' Club in 1964 and has served on their Report editorial team since 1967 and has been the club recorder since 1974. He sits on the general committee of the Y.N.U. Ornithological Section and is the regional representative for the British Trust for Ornithology in the Leeds and Wakefield areas. He has travelled widely abroad in pursuit of birds and has visited the Middle East and many parts of Europe. I ask everyone to give him their full support and send their records promptly to 61 Parkland Drive, Leeds. Telephone 682473.

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K.H. *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

R. G. Hawley drew the Sparrow Hawk, Purple Sandpiper and Ortolan Bunting.

D. M. Pullan drew the Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Tern and Great Skua.

J. R. Mather drew the Heron.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

A marked northerly movement during January peaking on the 14th when 304 passed Filey in four hours and 278 passed off Scarborough. Spurn had no such movements during the period but a heavy northward passage during late March with 125 on 25th and 128 on 8th April. A few birds were seen along the coast during June.

Birds were present again from August building up by the middle of September when Flamborough had 53 on 19th and Spurn had 58 on 30th. The maximum winter count was 62 at Flamborough on 16th December.

Inland birds were at Tophill Low Res. on 20th January and 19th February, Stocks Res. on 7th March (JF), Wintersett Res. in summer plumage on 11th September, Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th October, Wintersett again on 4th December and Knotford Nook G.P. on 25th November.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

V.C. 61 had small numbers, mainly singles, during the early months, but eight at Flamborough on 29th January (DIMW). Spurn had singles on 23rd and 24th March. A small spring passage noted at Flamborough with three on 29th April, two on 1st May and three on 23rd May.

Single birds in summer plumage were at Flamborough on 17th and 18th June. Further north, in V.C. 62, 16 flew north at Burniston on 18th January and 39 on 26th January plus nine on the sea (MF).

Relatively numerous off the coast of V.C. 61 from August to year-end. Spurn had singles on 13 dates and two on one. Noted at Flamborough on 6th and 28th August and on several dates during September with singles on eight days and three on 26th and 30th. Two at Scarborough on 31st August. Several were off Hornsea with two on 8th September, three on 10th and 15th, two on 17th, three on 18th and seven at Mappleton on 24th. Singles off Bempton on 14th and 20th September (SR). Three at Atwick on 1st October and two at Skipsea on 4th. Singles were at Flamborough on several dates during October/December with ten on 3rd December and seven on 16th. Three were at Withernsea on 25th November and singles on 18th October and 16th November.

One was inland at Wintersett Res. on 31st December (JBB. GJS. PS. *et al)* and what was presumably the same bird was seen flying over Fairburn Ings on the 30th (CW). One at Swinsty Res. from 10th to 14th February was found dead on 15th (GTF. FCD).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

During the early part of the year, Filey had singles on several dates during January to March, Flamborough had similar records with four on 12th February and two on 8th April with singles on 14th and 30th April. One on 11th June was in full summer plumage as was another on 8th July. The Scarborough/Burniston area had one to two birds during January to early April with six on 18th January, a day of much diver movement.

After singles at Flamborough on 13th and 29th August and at Spurn on 23rd August there were more records than usual: singles were seen at Withernsea, Hornsea, Flamborough, Bridlington Bay, Scarborough and Spurn, most occurring during October to December.

Flamborough had two on three dates and six on 16th December. One flying south at Scarborough on 1st October appeared to be in full summer plumage (RHA).

One was inland at Ingbirchworth Res. from 1st to 11th February (CBi. JED. *et al*).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Sparsely distributed in V.C. 61 with very few records from Hornsea Mere. Up to eight were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during January. Breeding results in V.C. 63 gave figures of 18 young from seven broods at Mickletown Ings, six young from three pairs at Southfield Res., 24 pairs at seven waters in the Doncaster area and 32 pairs at 14 waters in the Barnsley area including Wath Ings where 13 pairs reared 40 young.

A late brood of very small young was at Farnham G.P. on 16th September. Fairburn Ings attracted good numbers with a build-up in August to 55 by the 26th and 63 by 18th September. Ten pairs reared 23 young.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Four landed briefly in dense fog on floodwater on Bempton Cliff Top on 6th May (SR). The wintering flock off the Fraisthorpe/Barmston stretch numbered 60 on 6th January (NAB).

Breeding numbers were normal but there was more success than during the last two years.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps griseigena*

V.C. 61 produced good numbers; Filey had singles on 8th January, 11th and 16th February, 25th February, 8th/9th April and 25th October. Flamborough had singles on 26th February and 1st April and in the autumn there were two on 1st October, three on 3rd December, one on 7th December and two on 17th. Singles at Atwick on 26th September and Hornsea on 27th October.

V.C. 62 had two at Ravenscar on 26th August, two off Scarborough during a good sea passage on 1st October and one at Burniston on 22nd November.

Inland records came from Wheldrake Ings on 19th March (DB. FWO. *et al*), Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd March (MB), Southfield Res. from 21st February to 12th March (CW. *et al*) and Sprotborough Flash on 21st November (HP).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Hornsea Mere had one on 28th April which was in breeding dress and stayed to 2nd May (RGH). Another from 19th to 22nd October, one on 1st November and again on 5th and 8th November (WFC. RGH. *et al*). Three flew north at Flamborough on 15th April and there were singles on 25th August and 1st October (PAL. DIMW). One at Fraisthorpe on 29th October (DGH. DEM). One at Tophill Low Res. on 21st/22nd October (KR. PWI) and on 3rd November (KR). One at Burniston on 17th December (MF). One at Spurn on 24th October.

One was inland at Royd Moor Res. on 1st October (JL. PDB). The bird at Allerton Bywater in late December 1977 stayed until 6th January (CGV. *et al*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

One at Tophill Low Res. on 24th August (KR) with two on 28th and 31st August, 7th and 9th September (PB. DEM). Hornsea Mere had one on 31st August (WFC), one to two from 6th to 11th September (WFC. RGH) and one from 8th to 11th October (EWC. RGH). An oiled bird was found dead on the beach at Weeton Clough on 15th December (MT).

There were some interesting inland records; singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 12th to 22nd August (PDB. MLD. *et al*), Wintersett Res. on 21st August (GJS) and 9th/10th September (GJS. PS), Knotford Nook G.P. on 19th August (DMP. KM. *et al*) and two juveniles at Swillington Ings on 30th July (JW) which were no doubt the two which appeared at Fairburn Ings next day which stayed until 5th August (FAW), one remaining until the 10th (SCM. *et al*).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Very large numbers were reported off Flamborough Head as follows: 1,290 flew north on 30th January (DIMW). A very heavy passage on 30th April when 2,000 were counted flying south and many more were calculated to have passed (PAL. IS. DIMW). 1,450 flew north on 12th June, 3,765 on 26th November and 2,250 on 17th December. Filey recorded the same movements and had 1,224 on 27th April (HJW) and 3,000 flying north on 1st August.

Several blue phase birds were involved with 41 at Flamborough on 30th April (PAL. IS), 25 at Filey on 27th April (17 'D' and 8 'DD') (HJW), two flying north at Flamborough on 8th August (SCM) and on 17th December there were several very dark ('DD') and *hundreds* of intermediates ('D') at Flamborough (PAL. IS. DIMW).

The maximum in one day at Spurn was 252 on 26th August. Single blue phase were seen on 30th April (see above), 13th May, 1st October and 28th December.

350 chicks counted along the Bempton Cliffs was a low figure compared with 1976 (SR).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One flew north off Filey on 25th June (AB. JR. HJW). One flew north at Spurn on 28th August (NAB. PH), one on 16th September and three on 17th September (AH. DK. GW. *et al*).

Singles flew north at Flamborough on 16th July (DIMW), 22nd July (DIMW), 29th July (DBC. PAL. SR) and 12th August (DRT).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Flamborough produced unprecedented numbers during August and early September: one on 6th August, three on 12th, singles on 20th and 25th, three on 26th, two on 28th, four on 30th, two on 12th September, singles on 16th and 18th (PAL. IS. SR. AG. DIMW) and 13 on 20th (PAL. IS). All flew north. One flew south at Filey on 24th September (MR).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

One flew south off Scarborough on 28th January (MM). One flew south at Filey on 23rd April (VAL). There were three records in June, singles at Flamborough on 10th and 17th and at Filey on 30th. One flew north at Burniston on 31st July and there were records on five July dates at Flamborough and three dates at Filey, five being the maximum.

Recorded on every day during August involving the largest numbers ever recorded. 47 flew north off Scarborough on 1st, the next big move being off Flamborough on 18th when 41 passed. Spurn had maxima of 173 on 25th August and 226 on 26th. Flamborough had 197 on 25th, 1003 on 26th when 482 were seen off Filey, 273 on 27th, 289 on 28th and 120 on 30th. Other sea-watch points recorded good numbers during the same period. September produced some good counts with 456 at Flamborough on 2nd, 551 on 19th and 320 on 20th as maxima. In contrast, Spurn had relatively few during September with 90 on 12th as maximum. 1st October produced a large movement which was evidenced at every point: Spurn had 316, Hornsea 216, Flamborough 430 and smaller numbers at Scarborough. A movement on 17th October produced seven at Hornsea and 168 at Scarborough in 4½ hours watching. Spurn had none after 21st October but there were singles at Flamborough on 28th November, 2nd, 8th and 28th December when three were also at Filey (PAL. IS. DIMW. WFC. RHA. *et al*).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A few were seen on six dates during April and May but mainly singly with a maximum of four. Movement started in early June; only small numbers except for 68 flying north at Filey and 206 at Flamborough. 189 passed Flamborough next day and 111 on 12th (PAL. IS). 102 flew north at Scarborough on 13th (MF).

On 1st July, 197 were off Flamborough and 59 flew north and 149 flew south at Filey. 151 flew south at Filey on 26th July and 216 on 29th.

The largest movement took place on 1st August when 751 flew north at Filey in twelve hours (TIC. IF. HJW), 557 flew north at Burniston in two hours (0930 to 1130) (MF) and

1,514 flew north off the Scarborough Marine Drive between 0730 hours and 2015 hours (RHA. MM. *et al*). Spurn did not have the same movement indicating that the birds approached the coast to the north of the peninsula before turning and flying north. A further indication of this circular movement was on 1st October when 365 birds flew north at Hornsea but only 73 at Flamborough (WFC. *et al*) and only 56 were seen at Spurn. A few were passing to mid-October and Flamborough had five on 26th November and three on 28th (AG. PAL. DIMW) when one was at Spurn. Filey had one on 9th December and five on 28th (IF. TIC) and one was off Scarborough on 29th December (RHA). One was in the Upper Humber on 17th December (DIMW), one at Patrington Haven on 19th September (MT) and one at Whitton Sands on 20th September (AGi). Singles were at Blacktoft Sands on 20th and 21st September (AG).

One was inland at Wath Ings on 5th October (PBW).

Birds showing characters of the 'Balearic' race *P.p. mauretanicus* were one at Flamborough on 15th April, one on 29th July, one on 28th August, three on 1st October and one on 10th October (PAL. IS. DIMW). One at Scarborough on 5th July (MF). Birds showing characters of the eastern Mediterranean race *P.p. yelkonan* were recorded singly at Flamborough on 1st May, 9th, 15th and 21st July and two on 19th September (AG. PAL. IS. DIMW).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

One north at Flamborough on 31st August (NAB. AG. SR), two on 3rd September (PAL. DIMW. RES) and one on 1st October (PAL. DIMW) with two later in the day (DIMW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One flew north at Flamborough on 1st October (PAL. DIMW).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*

On 28th September, one came into Fairburn Ings and remained until 30th (CW. SCM. *et al*). One flew across the M1 Motorway near Wakefield on 30th September (TA) and one was found dead at Barnsley on 1st October (per RAF). Six flew north in a northerly gale and on a day of heavy sea movement on 1st October at Flamborough (PAL. IS. DIMW).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

The colony on the Bempton Cliffs continues to increase: 160 eggs were laid (136 in 1977), 153 hatched (121 in 1977) and 145 young fledged (112 in 1977). In addition to these, it is possible that a further 20 pairs bred in sites not visible from the cliff top (Miss J.F.). A *leucistic* bird was in the colony (DJB).

Large numbers evident off the coast during August to October with maxima of 1,400 at Flamborough on 26th August, 1,060 at Spurn and 1,134 at Filey on 30th, mostly flying south and 1,018 mainly flying north at Hornsea on 1st October.

Three juveniles penetrated up the Humber; at Weeton Clough on 26th September, Cherry Cobb on 2nd October and Blacktoft Sands on 7th October.

One was found dead near overhead wires inland at Kellington on 30th April.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

16 occupied nests just north of Filey Brigg (HJW). 140 flew north (and 61 south) at Filey on 29th July. 105 flew south at Flamborough on 19th September (PAL. IS).

Hornsea Mere held the usual numbers with a maximum of 66 on 13th December (RGH). Tophill Low Res. had maxima of 14 in February and 17 on 24th December (PB. PJI).

Elsewhere inland, most of the larger waters had birds, mainly one or two, in all months, most frequently in spring and autumn/winter. Fairburn Ings had three in early January and four on 16th May. Four were at Boroughbridge on 12th December (PR). Bolton-on-Swale G.P. attracted large numbers with 26 on 1st January, 19 on 28th February, 15 on 19th March and 11 on 23rd April (GDM).

Birds with white heads and probably of the continental race were one at Spurn on 9th April and three on 22nd April and one at Blacktoft Sands on 20th April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Flamborough had maximum counts of 70 on 28th October, 60 on 12th November, 70 on 29th November and 90 on 7th December. There was no reference to breeding by the Flamborough watchers. The Bempton post-breeding numbers were low and several dead birds were washed up during the winter (SR). There were more records inland than usual: one was at Tophill Low Res. on 18th May (PB), one found dead at Swinefleet Common on 14th January (SJH), one at Elland G.P. on 20th January (JW), one south at Wath Ings on 21st January (JH. *et al*), one at Rotherham (R. Don) on 20th December (NA), one at Rawcliffe Bridge from 17th to 31st December (WHP), one at Swillington Ings (adult) on 24th September (JW), one at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 7th May, one at Gouthwaite Res. on 27th May and one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 13th December (KM).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A good series of records, all at the year-end as follows: singles at Blacktoft Sands on 21st September, 12th October, 26th November and 17th December (probably same bird) (AG), one at Hornsea Mere on 13th October (RGH), one at Haverfield Pond (near Patrington Haven) on 3rd November (MT), one at Denaby Ings on 26th November (MTi), one at Fairburn Ings on 28th December (stayed into January 1979) (A and IK), one flushed by shooters (and spared) at Newton-on-Derwent on 30th December and one at Swillington Ings on 31st December (JW).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 30th May (PD. *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

No breeding reported from V.C. 61. A nest with two young at Mowthorpe in V.C. 62 on 7th May (MF). Two young reared at Wentworth Park in V.C. 63. 20 occupied nests at Coniston Cold in V.C. 64 on 16th April. Eight pairs bred in a new locality near North Stainley (CS). Three pairs bred near Newby Hall rearing five young (DJB). Two pairs bred in Upper Nidderdale (AFGW). 15 pairs bred near Richmond, one pair near Clapham and four pairs near Hellifield.

Some obvious coastal movement during the autumn, mainly during September when Spurn had one to two birds on seven dates. Several seen at Flamborough, Filey and Grimston during the period with three coming in over the sea at Filey on 28th August. Stated to be more obvious than usual in the Upper Humber area at this time (DIMW).

Widespread all over the county throughout the year with some large gatherings in the autumn; 19 at Wath Ings on 18th July and 19 at Wentworth Park on 17th September being the maxima. Maxima of 19 at Wharfe Ings and 20 at Castle Howard were not dated in the York report.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One sub-adult at Tophill Low Res. on 26th April (PB. HMcC). An adult at Blacktoft Sands on 8th June (AG).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

One near Greenfield (V.C. 63) on 7th April (MC).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Two immatures came in over the sea at Flamborough on 1st October, one flying off north and the other remaining on the headland for the afternoon (PAL. IS. DIMW).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

The moulting herd at Hornsea Mere numbered 61 by 18th June, 97 by 30th, 107 by 10th July and 138 by 22nd, decreasing to 68 by 29th August and 28 by 16th September (RGH). The Fairburn Ings moulting herd numbered 138 on 23rd July (excluding the year's cygnets). 17 pairs built nests but several were unsuccessful and 24 cygnets resulted from six pairs.

Two flew south at Filey on 29th May, one was in the bay on 10th June and two flew north on 15th July (FJT. HJW). Ten flew in off the sea at Scarborough on 13th July (Miss JW). These birds were no doubt of local origin, and probably involve those assembling at Hornsea Mere to moult.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

The wintering herd on the Lower Derwent consisted of 90 birds (20 first year) on 2nd January, 146 (30 first year) on 15th January and up to 150 until mid-March. All had departed by 2nd April (GS. *et al*).

Numbers elsewhere during the early months were small, usually low single figures but 16 at Fairburn Ings on 4th January, 16 at Denaby Ings on 7th February and eight at Blacktoft Sands on 8th February and 15 on 15th (flying east). Reports came from six waters in V.C. 63, three in V.C. 64 and two in V.C. 65.

First of autumn was one at Hornsea Mere on 28th October on which date 19 flew south at Spurn. The main influx occurred during mid-November with an apparent second arrival in mid-December. Several waters held low single figures. 12 were at Tophill Low Res. on 29th November, 22 flew west at Wintersett Res. on 17th December and 13 were at Fairburn Ings on 31st.

The Lower Derwent had seven on 1st November, 53 (four 1st year) on 11th December and 64 on 16th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Small numbers at several waters throughout the county during the first few months with maxima of 16 at Mickletown Ings in January/February, 20 to 32 at Fairburn Ings during January, 48 on 19th February, 37 in March dropping to 11 by April and three remaining to 26th May when one left, leaving two to summer, and 36 near Birkin on 25th March (JM). An incapacitated bird also summered at Wheldrake Ings. 14 at Wath Ings in January, 12 near Knaresborough on 20th February and 15 at Staveley Lagoon on 23rd March. Seven flew north-west over Illingworth (V.C. 63) on 23rd April.

The first of the winter were two at Almholme on 13th October and several waters had their first during the next few days. 14 were at Malham Tarn on 28th October after seven on 22nd. 12 flew south-west at Skeffling on 27th October when two were at Spurn. 12 were at Almholme on 31st and 21 on 23rd November. Fairburn Ings had a maximum of 31 at the end of December. Smaller numbers (below ten) occurred at *ca.* 25 other waters during the period.

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

The one at Hornsea Mere on 31st December 1977 stayed until 6th January and singles were there on 12th February and 4th March (RGH). Eight were at Burniston on stubble on 12th February (MF). Three at Blacktoft Sands on 30th December (AG). Five at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 15th January to 19th February (GDM). Records of one at Studley Park, Ripon on 8th June and at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th June no doubt referred to the same individual. One was in the Masham area from 20th July to 30th September. One at Givendale, near Ripon on 12th December.

Pink-Footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge held a maximum in the early months of 520 on 5th February. In the autumn, 111 had assembled by 20th September and increased to 400 by 12th October reaching a peak of 582 on 24th October and levelling off thereafter to 350 until 26th November when numbers fell to 31 by end of December (ACh).

Several skeins were recorded in the Blacktoft Sands area and over the southern part of the county during February/March and November/December, 650 over the former place on

28th October coinciding with the Refuge peak on 24th. Other skeins consisted of *ca.* 120 to 400 birds. Smaller parties were seen inland elsewhere in the county mainly during January/March. Two flew north at Fairburn Ings on the date of 18th May and several single birds consorted with Canada Goose flocks throughout the year.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

A good series of records from V.C. 61: one at Spurn from 21st to 29th January, one on 9th December, five on 10th and three on 30th. One at Hornsea Mere stayed over from 1977 until 2nd January, three on 12th February and two on three dates in May (RGH). Six came in over the sea at Grimston on 19th October and continued west (AWW). 12 were at Winsett on 4th November (MT). One flew south at Filey on 8th November (IF). 13 flew south at Flamborough on 8th December (PAL. IS), two flew south at Filey on 9th December (HJW) and five were in the Easington/Spurn area on 10th December (per DBC). Four at Hornsea Mere from 22nd December to year-end were considered to have come from a collection as two were wearing spiral plastic colour rings (one white, one yellow) (RGH).

V.C. 62 had 13 at Scaling Dam on 19th November (GWF) and one flying south at Burniston on 25th December (MF).

V.C. 63 had one at Bretton Park from 10th to 17th December.

V.C. 64: One flew over Farnham G.P. with 52 Grey-lags on 5th March. A bird of the Greenland race *flavirostris* was with Canadas at Harewood on 23rd October and was seen at Eccup Res., Knotford Nook G.P. and Lindley Res. on various dates to year-end. Two were at Staveley Lagoon on 17th December and up to seven (four ads. and three juvs.) were at Givendale from 9th December to year-end. The injured bird released at Fairburn Ings in February 1977 remained throughout 1978.

V.C. 65: Two at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 28th February to 19th March (GDM).

Grey-lag Goose *Anser anser*

Nested at Hornsea Mere (22 goslings), Castle Howard Lake (four goslings), Rise Park, Hull (no details), Burton Constable (no details) and Wheldrake Ings (ten goslings). Hornsea Mere had 36 on 26th February as its lowest count but usually 40–50 birds for most of the year with isolated maxima of 155 in September and 190 on 9th October (RGH). Castle Howard Lake held maxima of 63 in January, 50 in August, *ca.* 45 during September to November and 53 in December. Tophill Low Res. had 18 on 28th July and Wheldrake had up to 19 during August and early September. 36 flew north at Filey on 17th September (TIC. HJW) and what was presumably the same party (but only 31 counted) was seen continuing north further up the coast at Burniston (MF). 54 were at Swinton in V.C. 63 on 8th January and 170 flew south-west over Huddersfield on 13th December. 46 were at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. during February with smaller numbers during the first four months. 53 flew over Farnham G.P. on 5th March. Small numbers of one to ten birds occurred at many other waters during the year.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

The scattering of Snow Geese inland with the Canada Goose flocks continues. One blue phase was reported from five waters in the Nidderdale/Uredale area throughout the year and two were in the Harewood/Eccup Res. area up to early May and again on 25th August. One at Adel Dam on 20th May. A white phase adult was at Fairburn Ings on 10th September and another flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 4th November. One was at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd November and one in the Gorple area on 5th November.

All will be of dubious origin, but not necessarily direct escapes as feral breeding occurs in the Hebrides.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Nine flew north off-shore at Spurn on 30th May and 30 flew south off-shore on 5th June followed by 13 on 11th June which were accompanied by a Chinese Goose. Two flew north off Scarborough on 5th June. 25 flew south over the sea at Filey on 24th June.

Colour ringing has shown some interesting interchanges between Yorkshire localities and the Beauly Firth in Scotland. Fairburn Ings had a party wearing black rings during the autumn which had been ringed on the Beauly Firth in early July. These are probably returning birds from the Derbyshire population but some may stay to breed at Fairburn Ings where the flock increases in size annually and peaked at 134 on 21st September after a moulting flock of 64 during the early autumn. Nine pairs reared 39 goslings. 11 goslings were reared at Hornsea Mere which had 106 birds during early September increasing to 140 by 24th. A moulting flock of 66 on 17th June increased to 115 by 30th. Wheldrake Ings had birds during most of the year with maxima of 24 on 15th January, 20 on 24th March and 18 on 26th August. 42 young were present at Bretton Park on 31st May where there was a maximum of 165 birds on 31st December. Some isolated pairs bred at several small waters in V.C.'s 63 and 64. 100 were at Stocks Res. on 15th September. The usual high numbers were in the Harewood Lake, Eccup Res., Gouthwaite Res., Leighton Res., Givendale and the Washburn Valley. Maximum count was at Givendale with 998 on 12th February.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

As with Snow Goose, the origins of most of the inland Barnacle Geese are suspect. Some of the coastal records seem more genuine, such as five in the Catfoss/Brandesburton area from 14th to 21st January (DB. SML). One flew south at Spurn on 27th September and 15 flying south well out to sea on 17th September were considered to be this species.

Inland records came from Wheldrake Ings where there were four during January to April with seven on 19th February and eight on 8th March (GS. BC). Four were at Castle Howard during the same period. The same birds may have been involved. Up to five were at Castle Howard from September to year-end. Five were at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th September. Single birds and small parties of low single figures occurred at many waters during the year as they moved around, often with Canadas.

Seven were on cliff top stubble at Filey on 9th December and again on 13th. One at Flamborough on 10th December and two from 23rd to 25th.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The Humber mud at Spurn held birds regularly up to 12th March with 50 on 7th January as maximum. First of autumn were eight on 24th October and nine on 29th October passing off-shore. Occurred daily on the Humber from 4th November to year-end. Numbers built up to 64 by 23rd November and 75 by 27th. December had 120 on 12th and *ca.* 100 to 108 from 14th to 22nd. Adults and first year birds were represented in about equal numbers. One wearing lettered colour rings had been ringed in Lincolnshire in March 1974 and subsequently reported in North Germany (December 1974), Essex (December 1974 to April 1975) and North Germany (April to May 1975, April to May 1976 and April to May 1977). Single birds showing characters of the pale bellied race *B.b.hrota* were on the Humber from 21st to 29th January, 4th/5th and 25th February, 30th October, 26th November, on 1st/2nd and 18th December and four flew north-west on 29th October.

Seven flew south at Filey on 4th March (AMP). One flew south at Flamborough on 2nd October and 12 on 16th December with two on 16th/17th December (PAL. IS). Four flew south at Hornsea on 7th November. Nine were at Filey from 9th to 14th December with another five on the sea on 11th (HJW) and two present on 26th December.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

One was at Spurn on 1st October. It was considered to be an adult and gave excellent views to several observers as it alighted on the Humber mud then took off and circled round before flying off east (BC. JC. CM. *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two were on flooded land at Halsham (V.C. 61) on 19th May (HFM) and what were no doubt the same birds were at Hornsea Mere on 21st (JHL. FR) and again at the year end from 31st October to 5th November (WFC. RGH). Published with the escape proviso.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna furruginea*

One at Fairburn Ings from 28th June to 17th July (MMo. DMcM). A male at Bretton Park on 22nd July (RL). One at Blacktoft Sands on 29th August (AG).

One to three birds were in the Whitton Sands area from 13th August to 9th October which consisted of a pair and one immature (SJH. TE. DIMW. *et al*). It is rumoured by a local farmer that the pair bred near a barn where he works. Full details are not to hand.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Breeding reported from Tophill Low Res., Brandesburton G.P., Wheldrake Ings, Aughton Ings and North Duffield. A pair also bred on York University campus.

Numerous in the upper Humber during most of the year with maxima of 770 (including 70 juveniles) on Whitton Sands on 8th July and 700 there on 5th November (DIMW). *ca.* 400 were in full wing moult along the Humber shore in late July (MT). Maximum at Spurn was 304 on 13th July. 638 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 26th October (ACh). In the early months, the largest count was 400 at Cherry Cobb Sands on 5th March (BSP). Several flew due west over Blacktoft Sands with maxima of 370 on 17th September and 133 on 1st October (AG).

Occurred at inland waters during every month but mainly during April and December, usually low single figures with maxima of 17 at Walshaw (V.C. 63) on 26th June, 15 at Ingbirchworth on 12th September and 25 west at Wintersett Res. on 9th December.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

An immature bird at Throxenby Mere from 19th July to 15th August (MF). A drake was in Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 7th October (MM). One flew into Harewood Lake on 5th November (AT. AM).

Published with the escape proviso.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Numbers in the Lower Derwent were spectacular: 2,000 during January, 4,000 during February, 2,800 in March, 2,000 in April and three pairs in May which stayed throughout June but no breeding suspected. At the year-end, 1,500 had assembled by December (GS. BC. SM. TMC).

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had more than before recorded and the highest numbers ever for V.C. 61: 4,800 on 7th January, 7,000 on 21st January, 4,800 on 28th, 6,000 on 2nd February, 5,500 on 15th February and 6,500 on 19th February. At the year-end, numbers were again high with 5,000 on 10th December and 5,900 on 29th (ACh). The count for the whole north bank of the Humber on 10th December was 5,315.

190 were on Lambwath Floods on 26th February (SML) and Hornsea Mere had 340 on 17th March as its maximum. Tophill Low Res. had 200 on 7th March and 240 on 27th December. Some flew south off-shore at Spurn, Filey and Hornsea mainly during September and October. Records inland were widespread but numbers were low and maxima were *ca.* 80 at Worsborough Res. and Newington Floods and 140 in the Ribble Valley on 12th February. 600 were at Bolton-on-Swale in early January and 469 on 26th February (CB. GDM). A pair lingered at Stocks Res. until 23rd June (JF). A duck with six young was at Grimwith Res. (MVB).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Numbers were as in 1977 and came from all the usual inland waters. The highest counts were during February and September/October. Several waters held up to 2,000, some higher counts being 3,000 on the Lower Derwent Floods during the early months, 4,310 at the Humber Refuge on 7th January and 4,770 on 21st.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

A drake was at Fairburn Ings on 20th December, standing on the ice with a flock of Mallard (SCM. PSA). This is the first record for Yorkshire and the eighth for Britain of this common nearctic duck.

Accepted by *British birds* Rarities committee.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Widely distributed throughout the county during the winter months in small numbers. Some waters held good numbers; Hornsea Mere had 39 from 17th September through to October then an increase to 125 on 2nd November, the highest ever total for the Mere. Only 70 remained on 4th November (RGH). The Humber area had 60 at Cherry Cobb Sands on 2nd January, 100 on 5th February and 50 on 10th December (ACh. BSP). 30 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 10th January and double figures from September to year-end with 49 on 29th December as maximum (ACh). 66 were on Whitton Sands on 16th September and 83 on 17th (DIMW). The Lower Derwent Floods attracted 50 during February and 90 were on the Aughton stretch on 21st March. Several flew west at Blacktoft Sands with 66 on 17th September, 26 on 29th, 34 on 1st October and 41 on 27th (AG).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

The first record was a pair at Almholme on 5th March which stayed to 9th May. Fairburn Ings had a pair on 15th March and up to eight in late May but no more than four during the summer. Single birds occurred at several waters during May and again in autumn. Four at Wath Ings from 19th to 28th August was the maximum in V.C. 63. Five (four drakes) were at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd June where the first had been seen on 30th April, but no breeding took place.

A pair bred at Wheldrake Ings and a duck with three young was seen on 23rd August (TMC). Three were on a pond at Bempton on 21st August (SR).

The last occurred at Fairburn Ings on 30th September.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A drake at Fairburn Ings on 12th September (MW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Breeding reports were as follows: V.C. 61, four pairs in the Lower Derwent. V.C. 63, ten pairs at four waters hatched 41 young. V.C. 64, seven pairs at four waters hatched 45 young. Known to breed at Locker Tarn in Wensleydale but no results received. Several other waters had pairs in spring without subsequent breeding proof.

Hornsea Mere had 100 on 21st January and 180 on 22nd October as its maxima. Tophill Low Res. had 185 on 19th August and 205 on 16th September during the peak period. The Lower Derwent Floods did not attract big numbers and maxima were 42 on 24th March and 30 on 27th August. Fairburn Ings attracted 130 by early September and 210 on 18th with 250 on 10th October whereafter numbers fell to 40 by year-end. 101 at Wath Ings on 29th September, 105 at Denaby Ings on 28th October and 120 at Potteric Carr from 22nd September to 1st October were the maxima in V.C. 63. Smaller numbers occurred at many other waters during the non-breeding season.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Hornsea Mere had single females on 4th, 14th and 29th January (NAB. RGH), 5th February (RGH), 1st, 11th and 14th May (NAB. GED) and a very tame bird on 30th August (RGH). A drake was at Wheldrake Ings on 11th September (PP) and a drake was at Knotford Nook G.P. on 4th November (DMP. MGC).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

The Lower Derwent Floods held a maximum of 653 on 12th March. 200 were at Castle Howard Lake on 5th January. 253 at Thrybergh Res. on 16th February and 250 at Newington Floods on 31st December were the maxima in V.C. 63. Fairburn Ings had a maximum of 300 in mid-January with 200 to 250 from July to year-end. Tophill Low Res. had a maximum of 227 on 26th January and Hornsea Mere did not exceed 120 in January and 150 on 2nd August which were low numbers for the water. Numbers elsewhere in the county did not exceed 200 but were widespread at most suitable waters.

Very few pairs were proved to breed; five broods were hatched in V.C. 61, at Hornsea Mere (3) and Tophill Low Res. (2). 16 pairs bred at six waters in V.C. 63 and in V.C. 64, seven pairs hatched 29 ducklings at Fairburn, Swillington and Mickletown Ings and a female with seven ducklings near Hellifield in July was only the second breeding record for the area, the other being at Malham Tarn in 1906 (BSh).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A drake was at Tophill Low Res. on several dates up to 22nd April and re-appeared on 21st October whereafter it was seen on several dates to 29th November (NAB. MC. KR. RGH. *et al*). What was no doubt the same bird was at Hornsea Mere on four dates during the early period (not overlapping) and almost daily from 22nd April to 15th May (WFC. SML. RGH. *et al*). A drake was at Fairburn Ings up to 24th January having stayed over from 1977 (SCM. *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

An adult drake at Tophill Low Res. from 26th February to 5th March (DJB. PB. PJI). One at Hornsea Mere on 12th March (RGH). Three at Potteric Carr on 10th September (JP). One at Wintersett Res. on 2nd and 3rd December (PS).

Published with the escape proviso.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Breeding records as follows: V.C. 61, reported from five places in the York area and at Hornsea Mere, Tophill Low Res. and Faxfleet but no details of success or number of pairs involved. V.C. 62, reports from Hackness Lake (5 ducklings), Dalby ('ducklings') and Seamer Road Mere (2 ducklings). V.C. 63, *ca* 90 pairs at *ca* 20 waters. V.C. 64, 74 pairs at 18 waters hatched at least 325 young including 25 pairs at Fairburn Ings (127 ducklings). V.C. 65, one pair reported from near Bolton-on-Swale (7 ducklings).

Tophill Low Res. attracted 500 on 22nd January and on 3rd December. Hornsea Mere held 380 on 21st January, 390 on 12th March, 480 on 15th April, 155 on 14th May, 290 on 5th August, 670 on 22nd October and 420 on 25th November. Fairburn Ings had 375 in January and February, 400 in mid-July and 250 to 350 to year-end. Many other waters in V.C.'s 63 and 64 held up to 200 during the early months and in autumn/winter.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Small numbers occurred along the coast mainly in the winter months, maximum being 14 at Spurn on 13th October. Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere had low single figures on several dates during January to May and July to year-end. Occurred at several waters in V.C.'s 63 and 64, again low single figures and during the same months. A duck was at Fairburn Ings from 8th June to 2nd July and was often with a drake Tufted.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Small numbers were off the Flamborough/Filey area during the winter months with six at Filey on 4th June. Largest parties were 19 at Filey on 21st January and 21 on 28th January. Flamborough had 16 on 18th October and 34 on 2nd December when 17 flew south at Filey. 16 were off Barmston on 9th December and 30 flew north at Flamborough on 18th December. 16 flew east down the Humber at Skeffling on 10th November, seven on 25th November

and 17 off Hawkin's Point on 9th December (MT). Spurn had birds in most months (not January or March) and mainly in the autumn/winter. Maxima were 37 on the Humber on 7th October and 55 on 28th; 32 on the Humber on 2nd November and 35 off-shore on 10th. Eight were up river at Blacktoft Sands on 7th December.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Two off Spurn on 21st March was the only record in the early months. Records at the year-end consisted of one to two birds at Spurn, Filey/Flamborough and Scarborough on several dates from 10th October to year-end with five at Flamborough on 28th November and eight at Filey on 18th December.

A female at Hornsea Mere from 21st October to 5th November and a juvenile on 25th/26th November (RGH. GED).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Recorded off the coast in every month, the majority being during early August. 276 flew north at Filey on 1st, 270 at Scarborough and 183 at Hornsea on same day. Further south at Spurn, the movement was not evident, with up to 60 being present almost daily during the month. 283 flew north at Flamborough on 8th August and 80 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on same day. 100 were at Broomfleet in the Humber on 26th August.

Inland records came from at least ten waters in V.C. 63 and nine in V.C. 64, mainly during April and August. Low single figures were usual but ten at Eccup Res. on 16th April, 13 at Leighton Res. on 28th April, and 19 at Fairburn Ings on 13th July. Castle Howard in V.C. 62 had three on 16th April.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Only three records in the early months; one at Fraisthorpe on 21st January (BSP), one at Filey on 16th February and nine flying north at Burniston on 9th April (MF). Several records at the year-end with one to five at Spurn on several dates from 24th September to year-end and small numbers off the Filey/Flamborough/Bempton stretch from July. Maxima were 11 flying south at Filey on 6th September, seven at Flamborough on 16th October (PAL. DIMW), 14 south at Barmston on 3rd December (DEM) and 20 north in one flock at Flamborough on 9th December on which date seven flew south at Filey and 12 were at Barmston (PAL. DIMW).

A drake was at Leighton Res. with 13 Common Scoters on 28th April (Miss MJC). A drake was at Fairburn Ings on 30th October (MAB. MC. *et al*) and what was no doubt the same drake was at Eccup Res. next day (CY. TD. *et al*).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Maxima at the main waters in V.C. 61 were: 47 at Tophill Low Res. on 19th and 27th February, 220 at Hornsea Mere on 5th March and 8th April. Both these waters recorded their last bird on 14th May. Wintersett Res. had birds up to 26th May and from 22nd August with maxima of 50 on 7th January and 40 on 17th December. Fairburn Ings had 40 in early March, 62 on 16th March and 40 during the first three weeks of April with up to 30 at year-end. Maximum at Gouthwaite Res. was 37 on 25th February and Eccup Res. had 45 on 26th November. All other suitable waters held smaller numbers, up to *ca* 30. 35 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 27th September. 57 flew north off Hornsea on 27th October. A marked movement off Burniston on 26th November when 96 flew north between 0830 and 1145 hours and 28 between 1330 and 1515 hours. A male with a broken wing summered at Almholme.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

A *redhead* at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd January (PB. PWI) and one at Hornsea Mere from 28th October to 25th November (WFC. RGH). V.C. 63 had single *redheads* at Wintersett Res. from 7th to 29th January, Mickletown Ings on 30th September and 1st October (BT)

and Wintersett Res. from 2nd to 9th and 20th to 30th December (PS. GJS. *et al*). A *redhead* at Fairburn Ings stayed over from 1977 and remained up to 22nd April. Single *redhead* at Eccup Res. from 22nd to 31st January (IHD. SPS. CY). One at Hay-a-Park G.P. up to 11th February (stayed over from 1977) visited nearby Farnham G.P. on two dates in January (RE. PTT). One was at Spurn on 18th November.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Stocks Res. had eight on 16th April and 21 on 7th May (JF. BSh). One or two pairs bred and one brood of five fledged (JF). Records at inland waters were sporadic and occurred mainly in April/May and September/October, singles and pairs being involved.

Coastal occurrences were widespread and involved small numbers except for seven at Filey on 1st October, five off Flamborough and seven off Hornsea on 18th October and nine at Hornsea on 27th October. 14 flew north at Filey on 26th November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Nested on the R. Ribble near Settle where two broods of eight were seen in June. Bred on the R. Tees and R. Ure but no details received. A female with 16 ducklings was on the R. Wharfe at Bolton Bridge in June. Recorded from streams on the higher ground in Wensleydale during the breeding season. A pair bred on the R. Ure near Ripon and hatched nine young (CS. SW). A good winter and high numbers were recorded from the favoured waters. Eccup Res. had maxima of 87 on 22nd January, 93 on 5th February and 83 on 12th March with 54 on 17th December. Leighton Res. had 70 on 19th February, 45 on 26th April, 24 on 13th May, 11 *redheads* on 26th June and 66 on 28th December. 32 *redheads* at Malham Tarn on 4th September where the species may have bred. Hay-a-Park G.P. attracted maxima of 35 in mid-March and 36 on 30th December. 38 were near Ripon on 18th February and 30 (mainly adult males) on 7th May. 65 at Ilton Res. on 6th May. Chelker Res. and Lower Barden Res. had up to 27 during January. Fairburn Ings had maxima of 27 in the early months and 23 in December. 23 were at Stamford Bridge on 16th December. 20 at Worsborough Res. on 6th December was the maximum in V.C. 63.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A duck at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th August (MLD), a pair at Bretton Park on 13th September (RJW), one at Mickletown Ings from 18th to 25th November (BT), one at Harewood Park from 25th October to 5th November (AM. AT) and one at Staveley Lagoon from 22nd June to 13th July (RE. GTF. *et al*).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One at Flamborough on 21st May was flushed from the cliff top (PAL. IS. DIMW).

Three *'buzzards'* flying up the Humber at Spurn on 29th April were thought to be Honey Buzzards and the incident suggests this species. Two at Conisborough on 29th September were also considered to be Honeys.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One near Harrogate on 21st January (AO'N).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Twenty years ago the Y.N.U. Report could list only six records. In 1970 when I edited my first report, there were again only six records. Numbers have increased annually since and there were 34 birds in 1978. Even this number was not exceptional compared with the past three years but confirms the trend of frequency started in 1975.

V.C. 61: Single birds occurred on 15 dates between 5th April and 27th May at Hornsea Mere (8 dates) (RGH. GED. SML), Tophill Low Res. (3 dates) (PD. PWI. IF), Weeton (1 date) (MT), Flamborough (1 date) (PAL. IS), Welwick (1 date) (MT) and Wheldrake Ings (1 date) (BGP). One at Tophill Low Res. on 26th August (PB. PWI) and one at Sunk Island on

2nd September (MT). V.C. 62: A female at Burniston on 5th June (MF). V.C. 63: Single *cream-crowns* at Hatfield Moor on 28th April (ML), Potteric Carr on 7th May, Thorne Moors on 13th May with one and a young male on 7th May (WHP). At Blacktoft Sands the female stayed over from 1977 but left on 4th January before the cold spell. An adult female arrived on 25th April (thought to be the 1977 breeding bird) and stayed until 20th September. She was seen carrying nest material in May and June. An adult male stayed only for the evening on 25th April. Passage birds occurred on 5th to 8th May (imm. male), 19th May (fem./imm.), 21st to 23rd May (imm. male), 3rd June (imm. male) and a juvenile on 19th and 20th August (AG). A male was at Newingham on 16th August. V.C. 64: A *cream-crown* at Fairburn Ings on 26th August (SCM. *et al*). A distant harrier soaring near Knaresborough Ringing Station on 19th August was thought to be this species and could have been the Fairburn bird (JRM. PTT).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

V.C. 61: Single *ringtails* on seven dates at Tophill Low Res. (January/February). Hornsea Mere (January and April) and Filey (February). Single *ringtails* at Grimston (October), Kilnsea (October and November), Hornsea Mere, Filey (2 birds) and Dane's Dyke (December). Single birds at Hornsea Mere, Grimston and Kilnsea on 16th December and Tophill Low Res. on 17th. Two on the Humber Estuary on 10th December. Spurn had a *ringtail* on 7th January and a male on 30th April, then *ringtails* on four dates in October/November with a male on 6th November and two *ringtails* in area from 9th November to year-end. The Lower Derwent valley had one to two on a few dates during January to April and on 23rd December.

V.C. 62: Several sightings on the moorland areas during January to April, two birds often being seen together (DJB. MFB. AD. *et al*). A female at Burniston from 9th to 15th February (MF), one at Ravenscar on 17th October and a male coming in over the sea at Burniston on 13th November (MF).

V.C. 63: Up to five wintered on Broomhead Moor at both ends of the year. Moors near Halifax had up to three from September. Hatfield Moor had up to three in January and two at year-end. Thorne Moors had up to five in January/February and three in December. Birds had departed from all these areas by mid-April and returned in September/October. Blacktoft Sands had several, possibly up to seven with four on 6th February as daily maximum. Four returned on 29th November and two remained at year-end. There were records in the winter months from two other upland and seven lowland areas. No breeding records.

V.C. 64: Recorded singly, mainly *ringtails*, at *ca*25 localities from January to May and August to year-end. Four were at one locality on 19th February and up to three at another. One pair summered and built a nest but no eggs were laid.

V.C. 65: Eleven sightings of single *ringtails* in the non-breeding season.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A *ringtail* at Blacktoft Sands on 17th and 18th May (AG). One on Pott Moor in V.C. 65 on 7th August (PY). An adult male near Easington on 9th October (MT).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

V.C. 62: A pair displaying at one locality during April.

V.C. 63: Sightings at several localities in the Huddersfield area during the winter months. A pair present at one locality in the Barnsley area throughout the year and may have bred. An unpaired female was present at a nearby locality. One was hunting Woodpigeons at Grenoside on 28th January.

V.C. 64: A male at Fairburn Ings on 21st January (JED. HL. *et al*). One at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd and 19th April (SML. AFGW). One over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd September (JRM. PTT. JLCG). Up to three birds present at one locality during parts of the year but no breeding evidence and a pair present at another locality. One pair bred in the west of the county. *Addition to 1977 Report:* One near Whelpstone Crag on 18th September.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Reports of continuing increase in all areas of the county with 'exceptional' numbers in some parts of V.C. 64. One observer had 122 sightings in the Settle area compared with only eight in 1968 and *ca.* 20 pairs are thought to have bred in the area.

Coastal passage was more evident than usual. Bempton and Flamborough had singles on several days in spring and autumn and three on 29th April, two on 2nd and 5th May, 9th September, 11th October and four on 25th October. Spurn had singles on five spring and four autumn dates.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Apart from the few pairs in the extreme west, one pair is reported to have nested in Upper Wensleydale (per BSh, CJH).

Coastal birds occurred at Hornsea Mere on 25th March (RGH), Grimston on 26th March (AWW) (probably same bird) and one near Bridlington on 10th December (KR). One flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd October (AG). Other records in V.C. 63 were singles at Thurcroft on 26th September, Langsett on 4th November and Thorne Moors on 26th November. V.C. 64 had singles at Gouthwaite Res. during March and in September, Leighton Res. in March, Arthington in April, Adel Dam on 10th August, near Thorner on 30th September and at Harrogate S.F. on 9th May. One was at Acaster Airfield in V.C. 61 on 16th February and one near Richmond in January.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One in Bransdale on 2nd April (DJB). One in the Ewden Valley on 26th December (RW).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

An immature at Leighton Res. on 18th March (PJC. BSP. *et al*).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

V.C. 61: One at Spurn on 30th April and singles flying south on 8th and 9th June and one on 10th September. One at Easington on 1st May (MT). One came in over the sea at Filey on 1st July (VAL. HJW), one south at Flamborough on 8th July and one on 11th July (PAL. SR. IS). One near Welwick on 1st September (MT).

V.C. 62: One at Castle Howard Lake on 17th August (ARN), one at Cockerdale on 27th August (LF–C), one in Duncombe Park on 9th September (GWF), one at Newburgh Priory Lake from the 4th August to 7th September (RH. *et al*).

V.C. 63: Singles at Newington on 30th April (CW), Blacktoft Sands on 7th May (AG), Potteric Carr on 3rd May (CF) and Almholme on 8th May (JWo).

V.C. 64: One near Ripon on 30th April (RF), singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th May and 3rd June (JEA. AM. *et al*) and one at Ripley on 10th July (AFGW). One was near Horton-in-Ribblesdale during late May and early June.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

16 birds were handed in at the R.S.P.C.A. centre at Bawtry most of which were eventually released; all had presumably been taken as nestlings in the general area. Breeding details received included 14 pairs in the Doncaster area, six successful in the Huddersfield area and 12 other probable sites, a successful year in the Barnsley area with good numbers in the town centre, on the moors around Langsett and the lowlands to the east.

15 pairs bred in the Leeds area including a pair on the Corn Exchange building and one in New York Street. 13 pairs were located in the York area. Seven pairs nested in Lower Nidderdale. There are obviously many more breeding pairs but the above sample indicates the general success.

Coastal passage was evident at Spurn in autumn and 104 passed on eight September dates and 107 on 12 October dates. Daily maxima were 24 on 25th September, 30 on 26th and 33 on 27th, 39 on 4th October and 37 on 16th. Smaller numbers passed into November.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

One at Flamborough on 1st May was a second-year male (PAL. IS. DIMW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Breeding records which reached me were eight pairs in V.C. 63 of which two failed and the remainder reared 14 young, two of which were taken by a falconer but were retrieved and returned to the nest to complete fledging.

V.C. 64 had six definite breeding pairs and two more probable. Outside the breeding season there were many records of single birds from all parts of the county. Up to three frequented Hatfield Moor.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

At least 30 birds were seen in the county.

V.C. 61: Singles at Spurn on 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th June and 19th August, two at Flamborough on 2nd May and singles on 3rd, 6th and 22nd and on 3rd June and 15th October, singles at Hornsea on 6th May, 10th June and 5th and 13th August and one at Wheldrake Ings on 16th July.

V.C. 63: Singles at Upper Little Don on 22nd April, Bretton Park on 21st May, Newington on 10th and 23rd July, Blacktoft Sands on 24th July, Wath Ings on 14th July, Bawtry on 27th July, Hatfield Moors on 28th/29th July, Mickletown Ings on 15th August and Wintersett Res. on 23rd September.

V.C. 64: One on Skipton Moor on 20th June (GWP), singles at Fairburn Ings on 9th July and 24th August, one at Boroughbridge on 12th August and Swillington Ings on 28th August.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One pair reared three young at a new site and a pair was present at a site in the west during April.

V.C. 61: Single birds were recorded at six coastal localities on eight dates in January (1), March (1), October (1), November (2), and December (3).

V.C. 62: One near Cayton on 4th August and one on Danby Low Moor on 3rd May (AGH).

V.C. 63: One on Thorne Moors on four dates in January and February. One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th June was very likely a falconer's bird which was the known origin of one at Whiteholme Res. for a month from 2nd August.

V.C. 64: Single sightings in Upper Nidderdale in January and from August to November with one present throughout September. One at Leighton Res. in April and one at Swinsty Res. on 15th June.

V.C. 65: One at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th and 9th February. Several sightings in the Malham Tarn area and ten others in the Ribble Valley area.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

In Upper Nidderdale 100 were flocked on Lofthouse Moor on 11th February and 105 were on Dallow Moor on 29th December, a period of deep snow. Two were eating berries from the top of Hawthorn bushes on Skelding Moor on 26th November (MGHG).

Three at Burniston Tip, near Scarborough on 21st January were quite exceptional (RHA). They were presumably driven off the high ground by snow.

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

32 males and 11 females counted in Langstrothdale on 25th February and there were certainly more (GTF). The Forest of Bowland population was not reported. Several birds in the Settle area where there were 11 on 24th February (BSh). V.C. 65 had birds at several localities: small numbers on Hudswell Moor, near Richmond, single males seen at Tow Hill and Baldersdale, ten males and two females in Colsterdale in March, seven males at a leck in Swaledale during April, five males at the Tan Hill leck on 10th May and two pairs at Widdale, near Hawes on 2nd April. Young forestry plantations are the favoured habitat.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Generally distributed in the south-east and as far west as Lower Nidderdale and Leeds. Very few recorded from V.C. 62 but said to be quite common is some lowland parts of V.C. 65 as far north as Hutton Magna. Two were at Gillamoor in V.C. 62 on 2nd April (DJB). Suggestion of a spread to the west in V.C. 63 where the species is common on Hatfield Moors with a minimum of 45 pairs. Four pairs on Wath Ings produced 23 young. 10 to 12 birds seen in the Leeds area at Knostrop in August, Newfield in September, Eccup Moor in August and Bramham Park in June. The Lower Derwent area had 27 on 5th February and 47 were in arable land adjacent to Skipwith Common on 9th November. Single pairs were on Ilton Moor, 800' a.s.l. on 11th March, Dallow Moor, 850' a.s.l. on 13th May and Low Bishopside, 950' a.s.l. on 15th April.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The usual large coveys reported from V.C. 63 with 150 on Swinefleet Common on 13th February, 79 at Monkton on 2nd February, 80 at Blacktoft Sands on 11th February and 58 at Thrybergh Res. on 21st November. *ca* 50 pairs on Hatfield Moors but breeding success was low due to cold wet periods. *ca* 80 were between Wike and Hollin Hall (Leeds area) on 16th February. 60 were near Beal, near Castleford on 19th February. Single coveys elsewhere did not generally exceed 20 birds.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One calling and later seen at Wheldrake Ings on 5th May (TMC). One at Grimston in V.C. 61 on 1st October was tired and nearly caught by hand (AWW). This was the day of strong northerly gales. One calling at White Moss, near Settle, on 2nd June.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Birds reared and released for shooting number many thousands and the species is obviously very common in these centres of activity. 200 were at Harewood during January/February, 300 during May/June and 750 on 4th September. 200 were at Newburgh Priory on 15th August.

Spurn Point had two on 11th October which remained on the peninsula until 25th November and one during December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

It is very difficult to monitor breeding by this species and no definite reports were received although birds were in some suitable localities throughout the year. Two pairs were considered to have bred at Blacktoft Sands and thought to have done so at Hornsea Mere, Tophill Low Res. and Fairburn Ings. Very widespread during the winter months with the usual autumn influx evidenced at several places. Records were mainly of single birds with larger numbers at the more inviting habitats such as up to 30 at Fairburn Ings, 30 at Blacktoft Sands in October and 35 on 28th November.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One was flushed at Flamborough on 8th April (PAL. IS).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One on Sunk Island on 4th May (MT). One was at Spurn on 11th and 12th September. One was calling at Low Grantley, near Ripon during June (per AFGW). One was calling at Brayton, near Selby, in mid-April (per PR).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread on all suitable waters throughout the county. Spurn had an obvious increase on the 'canal zone' during October when there were up to six birds on most days with nine on 21st and 11 on 30th and up to seven in November with ten on 2nd and up to nine in December. One nested 30′ up in a riverside Alder near Swinsty Res. (FAW).

Coot *Fulica atra*

An indication of westward spread in V.C. 63 and into the moorland fringe areas with increased prescence on small waters in the west.

Suitable waters throughout most of the county held the normal gatherings of 100 to 200 in the autumn and winter months. 300 were on the Lower Derwent floods during March. Numbers at Hornsea Mere were lower than usual, the maximum being 490 on 17th September and numbers in the Upper Humber area (Faxfleet) were stated to be fewer than usual.

Crane *Grus grus*

One at Thorn Park, Mowthorpe (V.C. 62) on 5th May (MF. FAW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*

One near Burniston on 3rd December (Mrs. J. Webb *et al*).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Breeding records inland came from Fairburn Ings (1 pair), Pool-in-Wharfedale (1 pair on river shingle), Hay-a-Park G.P. (1 pair), Masham G.P. (1 pair), Nosterfield G.P. (3 pairs),

Leighton Res. (1 pair), Bolton-on-Swale area (3 pairs). Two pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands. Several other pairs bred in the south of V.C. 61 and some in the north-west of the county. One pair bred at Malham Tarn (1200' a.s.l) but was predated.

Birds were recorded at inland waters throughout the county in most months, usually from February to October with peaks during the autumn. An obvious return on 19th March when 17 were at Bolton-on-Swale G.P., two were at Wintersett and 37 were near Masham. 25 near Settle on 2nd March increased to 42 by 21st. A marked movement during August with 11 at Eccup Res. on 8th, 34 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 28th, 15 west at Swinefleet on 18th and a westerly passage at Blacktoft Sands with 19 on 5th, 32 on 10th, 20 on 18th and 30 on 23rd.

2,550 were along the Humber shore to the east of Stone Creek on 15th January and 2,410 on the same stretch on 10th December. Cornelian Bay attracted large numbers with 220 on 5th January and 370 on 7th October (SML).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

One at Hawsker on 28th July (Mrs J. Webb). One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th August (JED. *et al*).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One came into Fairburn Ings at 1000 hours on 31st May and stayed until the evening of 1st June (CW. *et al*). This is the third consecutive year that the species has occurred in the county and the second record at Fairburn in that period. It is possible that only one individual is involved.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

V.C. 61: Breeding recorded only from Tophill Low Res. (1 pair, 2 young). Brandesburton G.P. (no details), Wheldrake Ings (2 pairs) and Naburn S.F. (1 pair).

V.C. 62: A single bird at Seamer Road G.P. in May and June but no further evidence.

V.C. 63: 17 pairs bred at nine sites.

V.C. 64: 18 pairs bred at nine sites. One bird of a successful pair at Eccup Res. had only one leg.

V.C. 65: One pair at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. probably bred and a pair on river shingle at Leyburn likely did so.

First to return was one at Beighton in V.C. 63 on 22nd March and Newington Flash and Wath Ings (V.C. 63) had birds in late March but no other March records occurred in the rest of the County. Most birds had departed by mid-September but there was one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 4th October and one at Filey on 10th (PJD). Some maxima were 16 at Wath Ings on 25th April and 21 on 17th July, 15 at Newington Flash on 17th July and 20 at Nosterfield G.P. on 23rd July.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Very few breeding records on the coast; 12 pairs from Hull to Spurn but only two nests found (MT). Two pairs attempted to breed inland at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. Two pairs bred successfully at Fairburn Ings and a pair was unsuccessful at Eccup Res. Three pairs nested at Nosterfield G.P. (2 successful) and two pairs hatched young at Masham G.P. Five pairs nested at Stocks Res. (JF).

Passage birds occurred at many inland waters from late February to October, most numerously during the autumn. Low single figures were mainly involved but up to ten at several waters and maxima of 12 at Newington Flash from 7th to 9th September. 15 at Gouthwaite Res. on 11th March, 35 on 11th June (eight on mud joined by a flock of 27) and 28 on 4th August.

Bridlington south beach held 26 on 14th February and 35 between Bridlington and Barmston on 11th March (SML). 60 in a field at Cherry Cobb on 20th May and 100 next day

(BSP). 75 were on the Upper Humber on 17th August and 50 on 3rd September (DIMW). 124 at a high tide roost near Kilnsea on 23rd August (SML). Southerly passage at Spurn in autumn with 47 on 16th August, 49 on 11th September and smaller numbers on other days during the period.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One at Filey Brigg on 29th and 30th May fed on the mussel beds (AB. WAC. HJW).

Dotterel *Eudromius morinellus*

A party of 12 on a hill in the west on 20th May (Miss HP. *et al*).

One found dead by the roadside in Commondale on 1st July (MC). One at Filey from 16th to 18th August (PJD. TIC). One at Bempton on 12th August (SCM).

Addition to 1976 Report: Ten were near Ocean View Farm at Flamborough Head on 8th May. All were in full plumage and some were displaying (IF. DEM).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some large numbers reported at both ends of the year with several birds in spring showing characters of the northern race including one flock of 1,000 near Settle from mid-March to 23rd April. Flocks of *ca* 1,000 birds occurred in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res. (spring and autumn), Lower Derwent (spring), Humber Wildfowl Refuge (autumn) and Grimston (autumn), V.C. 63 at Brampton, Fishlake, Denaby, Adwick-le-Street (all spring), V.C. 64 at Thorner Lane, near Leeds, Menwith Hill and Bishopthorpe (all spring). Flocks of up to 500 occurred at many places and some of up to 750 at a few others. The largest flocks were 2,500 on the Upper Humber on 6th October (DIMW), 2,000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 15th October (ACh) and 2,500 on Sherburn Airfield on 5th February (JM).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Occurred inland at ten waters in V.C. 63 and five in V.C. 64. Records were mainly of singles and some waters had birds on more than one date. The only records involving more than one bird were three at Whiteholme Res. on 23rd September and three at Wath Ings on 8th October. Two were at Wheldrake Ings in October. Records were mostly in May and August to October but there were occurrences in most months.

Along the Humber, numbers were normal with 200 at Cherry Cobb Sands on 20th May as a high isolated maximum (BSP) but usually just into double figures at any one locality. 38 at Filey on 23rd December was the only such flock.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Very large numbers were on the move in late February after the thaw. 'Many' passed south over Scarborough in the morning of the 24th and 1,534 in one hour in the afternoon. 1,500 flew south at Blacktoft on same day and exceptional numbers moved south-west in the Doncaster area on 24th and 25th. Spurn had the same movement with 1,244 on 24th, 853 on 26th and 1,111 on 27th. 2,200 passed over York in two hours on the 24th and the movement continued during the next two days. 2,000 were at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 26th. Many other areas had increased activity during February involving large numbers.

Flocks at the year-end were many and large in V.C.'s 63 and 64 with 1,000 to 2,000 at *ca* 12 places. 3,000 at Fairburn Ings in late November and 6,000 in the Ribble Valley, near Settle on 25th July. A *leucistic* bird at Chelker Res. on 18th November had a pale cream head and mantle (FAW).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Numbers along the Humber shore at both ends of the year were not as large as last year. The Estuary Count gave totals of 7,070 on 15th January, 18,000 on 5th February and 11,430 on 10th December. Most were in the Sunk Island/Patrington Haven area (per DBC).

Birds occurred inland, mainly during August and September, at seven waters in V.C. 63 and at Blacktoft Sands where 16 flew west on 24th July, and at five waters in V.C. 64. Some places had good numbers: eleven at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th August when five were at Fairburn Ings. 15 flew west at Wintersett Res. on 28th August and 12 flew west at Worsborough Res. on 29th September.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

The sands of Bridlington Bay had a maximum count of 155 on 11th March (SML). Spurn had 145 on 1st April and 430 on 31st October as its maxima. Birds occurred inland, mainly singly, at seven waters in V.C. 63 and two in V.C. 64. Occurrences were mainly in April/May and July/August. Nine individuals were identified at Eccup Res. between 6th and 22nd May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusillus*

A juvenile at Faxfleet on 6th October (DIMW). A new record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

V.C. 61: One at Cherry Cobb Sands on 21st May (BSP). Several records in autumn from the first at Filey on 6th August to the last at Flamborough on 10th December. One to two birds were involved except for five at Hornsea Mere on 6th September and a marked influx in the Upper Humber from mid-September with 25 on 10th September, 12 on 17th, 20 on 7th October, 11 on 9th and 15 on 16th (AG. DIMW). One remained into November with two on 5th and one on 19th (DIMW). Two at Barmston on 9th December (PAL. IS). Spurn had one to three on several dates from 3rd to 15th September. Four at Wheldrake Ings on 8th September, five on 10th, six on 11th and one on 12th and 15th (DB. FWO. GS. *et al*).

V.C. 62: Four at Seamer on 9th September (MF) and one at Scalby Mills on 17th September (RHA).

V.C. 63: One at Wintersett Res. on 30th May. One to two occurred on several dates during September/October at seven waters with maximum of six at Wath Ings on 10th/11th September. In addition were records at Blacktoft Sands where the species was regular from 6th to 22nd September with maxima of 15 on 10th and 12 on 18th and one to four on a few dates in October/November.

V.C. 64: Occurred at five waters, all in autumn with five at Nosterfield G.P. on 7th September, four at Stavley Lagoon on 12th September and four at Gouthwaite Res. on 9th/10th September as maxima.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One at Tophill Low Res. from 21st to 23rd May (PB. KR). One at Potteric Carr from 13th to 17th May (RS. *et al*). One at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th September (CS).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Wath Ings from 27th September to 12th October was an adult in almost full winter plumage. It was caught and ringed on 1st October (NS. JH. *et al*). The third county record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Certainly more than in the past two years with a notable influx in mid-August and again in mid-September.

V.C. 61: Spurn had two on 31st July then small numbers up to 24th September. Maxima were eight on 31st August and six on 3rd September. Eight at Whitton Sands on 17th August then up to *ca* ten at several localities along the Humber shore during early September. 16 near Saltend on 11th September, 17 near Paull on 14th and 65 in the Faxfleet/Whitton Sands area on 16th/17th September and 25 on 18th. Tophill Low Res. had up to three between 28th and 31st August. One at Wheldrake Ings on 11th September. One at Firtholme on 18th October (MT).

V.C. 62: No records for the third successive year but there must have been some birds present.

V.C. 63: Recorded at eight inland waters and at Blacktoft Sands from 6th August to early December Blacktoft had birds regularly from late August increasing to 25 on 6th September and fewer to 22nd with one on four dates to 8th October. Records elsewhere were relatively numerous with seven at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th September and three on 29th. Ten at Newington Flash from 7th to 9th September with one to three until 17th September. 12 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 30th September and one on 3rd October. One to two occurred at the other five waters.

V.C. 64: Recorded at six waters. One at Fairburn Ings from 2nd to 5th September, seven at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th September, and one to two at the other four waters during the period 9th to 19th September.

V.C. 65: No records.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

V.C. 61: Spurn had one on 27th July and one on 29th, and one to three on a few dates from 4th September to 17th December, mainly during October. Some passed south off-shore during August to October with maximum of four on 16th August, otherwise one to two on ten dates. Filey attracted birds almost daily until 7th May with peaks of 235 on 14th January, 200 on 11th February, 262 on 11th March (FJT) and 140 flying north on 15th April. First of autumn was one on 2nd July after which occurred regularly to year-end with maxima of 100 in November, 250 on 3rd December and 400 on 16th December, the highest total for the area (TIC. HJW). 30 were at Flamborough during January and April. 85 on the sea wall ledges at Bridlington on 26th November (IF).

V.C. 62: 156 on the Scarborough South Bay rocks on 15th January (MM), 82 at Cornelian Bay on 31st March (DJB) and 40 on 7th October (SML) with smaller numbers at Scalby Mills in February.

V.C. 63: One at Deer Hill Res. on 2nd September.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Average numbers along the Humber shore were 22,745 on 15th January and 19,900 on 5th February mostly east of Paull and at the year-end there were 14,375, 12,000 of which were east of Paull (per DBC). Coastal numbers elsewhere were average and occurrences inland were in every month, involving small numbers mainly during November/December. An obvious westerly movement during late November and early December: 12 at Knotford Nook G.P., and eight at Eccup Res. on 13th, 12 at Eccup Res. on 21st, 164 at Blackmoor-foot Res., 18 at Broomhead Moor, 15 at Cawthorne and seven at Ingbirchworth on 25th then, 26 at Fairburn Ings on 9th December, 45 at Denaby Ings on 12th and 38 at Wath on 13th. Up to 700 were in the Lower Derwent Valley during March and 200 during April, all having moved on by the end of May.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Records in spring were very few and consisted of one to two birds at a few places and one flock of ten at Newington Flash on 2nd April. A trio were at Wheldrake Ings in May and a male on 16th June (GS).

Records in autumn were widespread from early July to September with a few records to year-end. Low single figures were mainly involved at inland sites but 28 at Wheldrake Ings and 24 at Newington Flash during September. More occurred along the Humber with up to 25 birds at Cherry Cobb Sands and Blacktoft Sands and 100 on the Upper Humber on 3rd September (DIMW). 22 were at Flamborough on 29th August.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minima*

Very widespread during the early and late months. Maxima were six at Carlton Marsh on 10th January and ten at Wath Ings on 29th. Some birds lingered into April at inland sites and there were records in May along the coast as birds departed. Singles at Hornsea Mere on 3rd, Tophill Low Res. on 4th/5th, Flamborough on 6th and Welwick on 8th. First of autumn and early was one on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 30th August. Spurn had the next on 30th September whereafter birds were regular with maximum of seven at Almholme on 4th November. Most records were of singles.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge held 145 on 15th January when the whole estuary count produced only two more. 130 remained on 26th, 98 on 5th February then a rapid decrease (ACh). Flamborough had 45 on 12th February and *ca* 20 through March (DIMW). Hornsea Mere had 20 in January and 30 in February when birds fed out on the roads in hard weather (RGH).

Maxima inland during the first few months were 175 at Clifton Ings on 19th February, 200 at Wath Ings on 25th February and 250 on 20th March and high numbers (*ca* 600) in the Idle Valley including Newington Flash which is on the Yorkshire side.

Numbers in the autumn increased during late August with 120 at Wath Ings on 22nd, 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th and 120 at Fairburn Ings on 29th. Several suitable areas in V.C.'s 63 and 64 held upwards of 100 birds during October/November, some higher gatherings being 200 at Wath Ings in September/October and 225 on 1st November and 250 at Fulford Ings during *'the winter'*. 90 were at Flamborough on 31st December (PAL. IS).

Dowitcher sp. *Limnodromus sp.*

One was at Potteric Carr on 12th September (PG. LD. NW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

During the hard weather in mid-February, Hornsea Mere had up to 15, Flamborough had up to 16 and Filey had up to six. Stated to be more evident than usual in some areas of V.C. 64 at the year-end with several records in suburban gardens in the Leeds and York areas. Eight flushed during a shoot at Farnham in December. Flamborough had small numbers during November/December with maximum of 16 on 31st December.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

V.C. 61: Cherry Cobb Sands had birds during the first three months with maxima of three in January and seven on 5th February (BSP). Six at Weeton Clough on 24th March (MT). Singles were at Tophill Low Res., Cherry Cobb Sands and Patrington Haven on several April dates. One at Mickletown Ings on 28th April. Up to two at Whitton Sands in September/October and singles at Stone Creek and Sunk Island during the same period (AG. DIMW. MT). Two at Cherry Cobb Sands on 10th December (BSP).

V.C. 63: Singles at Wath Ings on three April dates and one at Wombwell on 29th April. Blacktoft Sands had singles on 7th May, 20th August, 30th August and two on 20th September. Eight at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th July, two at Ringstone Edge Res. on 29th July and two at Whiteholme Res. on 19th August.

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had singles on 8th and 20th April, three on 26th, one remaining to 30th and one on 20th July. One in full summer plumage at Staveley Lagoon on 14th May (RE. PTT), one at Nosterfield G.P. on 1st August and one at Masham G.P. on 10th September.

V.C. 65: Two at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 23rd April (GDM). A pair was present at one locality during some periods in the summer but no breeding established.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

503 were along the Humber shore on 15th January, 400 of which were at Cherry Cobb Sands (DBC. BSP) and 323 on 10th December (per DBC). 170 were in the Faxfleet/Whitton Sands area on 16th September (DIMW). 70 flew south at Filey on 30th August and 80 off Flamborough next day. Smaller numbers passed south at Spurn on several dates in August/September. 45 flew south at Bempton on 31st August (SR).

Inland records came from many waters in V.C.'s 63 and 64 during March to May and July to November, mostly during July/August. Low single figures were mainly involved but 15 flew south-west at Deerhill Res. on 15th July, eight flew over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 8th August, and seven were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th September.

Blacktoft Sands had some westerly passage in July with 24 on 17th, 22 on 24th and 11 on 1st August.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Autumn passage started in July when several coastal localities had flocks. Spurn had 29 on 15th July, 42 on 9th August and 29 on 12th September as maxima, smaller numbers being seen daily from 7th July to 14th September. 39 came in over the sea at Filey on 1st August and 55 flew south on 7th August (SML. *et al*). 35 flew south at Hornsea on 17th August and 57 in one flock at Grimston on 27th August (WFC. AWW). A few passed into October and a late bird was at Flamborough on 29th November (PAL. IS) but the main passage had stopped by the end of September. The passage was reflected at many places inland, maxima being 11 at Eccup Res. on 12th July, ten at Nosterfield G.P. on 4th August and at Blackmoorfoot Res. with 13 on 20th August, 19 on 22nd and 19 on 26th. Blacktoft Sands had ten flying west on 17th July, 11 on 31st and smaller numbers during August.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Good numbers wintered along the Lower Humber shore; 740 on 15th January and 850 on 5th February (per DBC) and *ca* 2,000 from the end of July to early November (MT). 300 were in the Cherry Cobb area during the early months and 500 were there on 5th August (BSP). 710 flew west on the high tide at Stone Creek on 19th September (SML). 200 were in a field near Skeffling on 18th November (SML). 238 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 6th July. 90 were probing in snow-covered fields near Leyburn on 9th February. 500 near Settle by 25th March and an autumn peak there of 500 on 13th September (BSh).

A *leucistic* bird was on Bishop's Moor, Upper Nidderdale on 13th May (MGHG).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Recorded in every month except January. Only low single figures were reported but occurrences were widespread inland and along the Humber shore. Recorded from at least 13 sites in V.C. 63 and ten in V.C. 64. August and September were the months of main occurrence with maximum of six at Fairburn Ings in September and five during October, eight at Wath Ings on 6th and 16th September and at Blacktoft Sands where there were seven on 26th August and six on 19th September. Six were at Cherry Cobb Sands on 2nd September (BSP).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Far fewer along the Humber shore than in 1977 and the three estuary counts gave totals of only 742 on 15th January, 428 on 5th February and 1,555 on 10th December, 1,000 of which were at Patrington Haven (per DBC). The three totals last year were 5,150, 2,400 and 2,395. 5,300 were present during mid-September (MT).

Small numbers wintered inland at several waters and the usual larger flock near Settle where there were 50 on 2nd January, 30 on 5th February and 55 on 8th March as birds returned. Nine on 19th November increased to 25 by mid-December (BSh).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Pattern of occurrence was normal with a light spring passage and a marked passage during the autumn, mainly during July and August. Birds were recorded at very many waters, usually in low single figures. Maxima were 11 at Fairburn Ings on 28th July and ten during late August, eight at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd August, 13 at Wath Ings on 21st, 20 at Newington Flash from 2nd to 9th September, ten on 13th and seven on 17th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

One at Flamborough Head on 16th and 17th September (PAL, IS, DIMW), the second county record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochrupus*

Records were widespread throughout the county in suitable habitats. A light spring passage involving mainly single birds but seven at Flamborough on 1st May (PAL, IS). Autumn passage started in July and there were very many records mainly during July and August. Maxima were at Thorne Waste Drain with four on 19th July and six on 31st, Wath Ings with up to eight during August, nine on 16th September and up to five in October. Blacktoft Sands had eight on 25th August. Seven were at Knostrop S.F. on 22nd July and eight on 14th September.

Some were recorded throughout the winter.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

V.C. 61: One at Tophill Low Res. on 30th/31st May (IF, PB, PWI). Singles during August/September at Tophill Low Res., Hornsea Mere, Filey Brigg, Sunk Island and Crabley Creek. Two at Tophill Low Res. on 1st August, two at Flamborough from 11th to 13th August and on 9th/10th September. One at Grimston on 27th October (AWW). Spurn had singles on ten dates from 30th July to 11th August with three on 4th August and one on 11th September. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 9th May.

V.C. 62: One at Seamer on 6th August (MM).

V.C. 63: Three at Wintersett Res. on 11th May and one on 28th, two on 1st/2nd August and one on 14th September. Singles at Wath on 11th May and 28th August and at Wombwell on 10th August. Two at Mickletown Ings on 15th August and one on 21st/22nd August. Blacktoft Sands had singles on four August dates with two on 23rd and one on 8th September.

V.C. 64: Single birds at five waters during the second half of May and one to two at five waters from early July to end of September with two at Fairburn Ings on 4th/5th June.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

Two birds wintered as in recent years. One frequented the Farnham G.P. area from 1st November to year-end. One was at Low Moor in V.C. 63 on 12th February.

The first new bird, but early, was at Wath Ings from 20th to 26th March. Almholme had one on 5th April but it was mid-month before birds were widespread with an obvious influx during the 15th/16th period. Maxima were 79 at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th July, 29 at Wintersett Res. on 25th July, 20 on the fore-shore at King George Dock, Hull on 6th August and 25 at Hornsea Mere on 30th August.

Some lingered into October, one at Knotford Nook G.P. staying until the 10th, singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th and Langsett Res. on 15th and one at Knostrop on 21st. One was at Broomhill Flash on 2nd November.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Spurn had birds almost daily throughout the year with maxima of 132 in April, 122 in May, 105 in July, 300 in August, 200 in September and 180 in October. Filey also had birds in all months with maxima of 130 on 4th November and 310 on 16th December. 110 in Cornelian Bay on 7th October.

There were more inland records than usual with birds at ten waters in V.C.'s 63 and 64 in spring from late April to mid-June and ten in autumn from mid-July to early October. One to two birds usually involved but five at Whiteholme Res. on 2nd/3rd and 10th September and nine at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th October. Up to two at Wheldrake Ings in V.C. 62 in May and two at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. in V.C. 65 in April.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

One at Whiteholme Res. on 13th and 14th June (DIC. DJS. *et al*). One near Ossett on 26th and 27th September (DL. DS. AF).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One flew north at Flamborough on 1st October (PAL. IS. DIMW). One at Spurn on 6th October. Two first-year birds at Flamborough on 6th December were exceptionally late and the first record in that month in the county (DIMW).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One at Filey Brigg on 2nd March (PJD. AP). Frequently recorded at Flamborough in autumn with two on 22nd September, one on 28th October, three on 26th November (PAL. IS. SR), four flying north on 28th November (AG. SR. DIMW) and one on 30th December (DIMW). One at Spurn on 24th September and one at Scarborough on 17th December (Miss JW). One was at Wheldrake Ings on 5th October (BBi).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One flew south at Filey on 25th February (WAC. IF). One at Flamborough on 30th April, two on 2nd May and one on 18th June (AG. PAL. DIMW). One at Filey on 25th June. Regular autumn passage started on 1st July and birds were recorded to the year-end on 13 dates at Filey and 36 dates at Flamborough. One to four birds daily were usual but maxima were up to nine on four August dates at Flamborough, 22 on 30th September, 11 on 1st October and eight on 22nd (PAL. IS. *et al*). Spurn had one to three birds on eight dates in August/September and singles on two October days and one on 25th November. Singles also occurred at Filey on 26th November, 2nd and 28th December, Flamborough on 2nd, 9th, 10th and 17th December. A few passed off Scarborough during the same periods.

Correction to 1976 Report: line 11, after 'ten on 29th', add October.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One at Filey on 22nd January (IF) was the only one before April when three flew south there on 27th. Up to five passed on several dates up to 24th June at Spurn, Flamborough and Filey.

Autumn passage did not involve any spectacular numbers. Birds occurred from July to December, most numerously during August/September. Some daily maxima were 186 at Spurn on 26th August, 200 on 12th September and 223 on 30th, 128 at Flamborough and 100 at Filey on 20th August, 159 (Flamborough) and 216 (Filey) on 26th, 107 at Flamborough on 28th and 109 at Filey on 15th September.

One was up the Humber at Cherry Cobb Sands on 31st July (MT) and one at Sunk Island on 26th August (MT).

An apparently *leucistic* bird flew south at Filey with three normal birds on 26th November. The plumage was almost all white with off-white underparts and some grey on the upper wing (HJW).

Inland, one occurred at Wharncliffe Chase on 2nd May (FJW), one at Fairburn Ings on 3rd May, two on 5th, one on 24th June and one on 14th July. One at Stocks Res. on 10th June (JF). One at Knostrop on 21st July. On 28th August, four flew south-east at Swillington Ings (JW) and two were at Wintersett Res. (PS. GJS. JWi). One at Wath Ings and one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th September, one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 6th, and two at Blacktoft Sands on 25th.

An immature eating a dead rabbit by the roadside in Agill, Upper Nidderdale on 12th September (MB) and one on Pott Moor (V.C. 65) from 8th to 16th September (PY) could have been this or the next species as attachment to inland moorland and eating off dead rabbits has been recorded several times for Long-tailed Skua in Britain.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

26 individuals were recorded passing Flamborough on 14 dates from 6th August to 1st October and one on 15th July (DIMW. PAL. IS. SR. *et al*). Singles were recorded on seven dates off Filey and Hornsea during the same period (DEM. HJW. WFC. AMA. *et al*). Singles at Spurn on 16th July and 28th August and one flew south at Scarborough on 30th August (RHA).

All accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

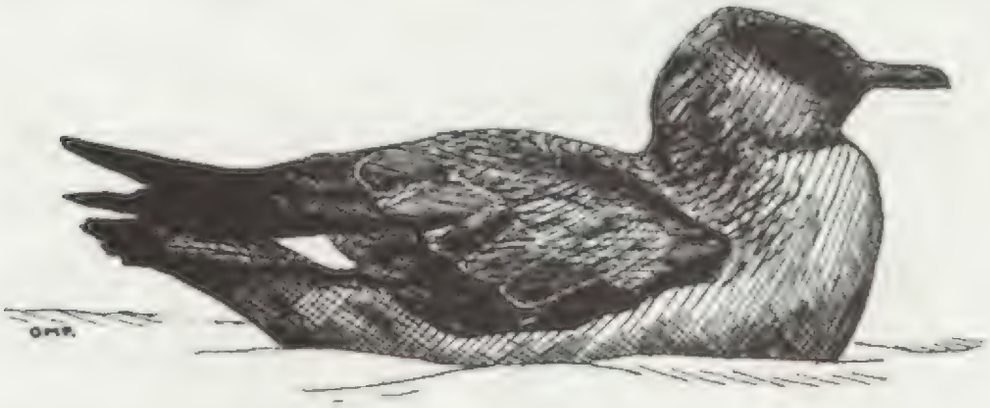
Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Singles at Burniston on 22nd January (MF) and Flamborough on 29th January (DIMW) and one at Filey on 25th February. Singles at Filey and Flamborough on 1st May and several records at the latter locality during June with eight on 17th and in July with 17 on 16th (PAL. IS). 12 flew north at Filey on 29th July. Good numbers recorded in August. 18 flew north at Scarborough and 51 flew south and 20 north at Filey on 1st. Flamborough had double figures on many days during the month with 27 on 8th, 43 on 26th and 25 on 30th (PAL. AG. IS). September had similar numbers with 27 on 20th and 30 on 30th (PAL. IS). 20 were at Filey on 30th. The 'seabird day' of 1st October produced 72 flying north at Hornsea and 46 at Flamborough. 13 flew south at Filey on 21st October and 22 at Flamborough

on 26th November. One off Scarborough on 8th August had all white primaries except for the outer two or three (RHA).

One was up-river at Skeffling on 20th October (MT).

One was inland at Fly Flatts Res. on 5th September (DIC. AM. BO).



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

V.C. 61: Flamborough had birds on twelve dates: a first-year on 30th April and 1st May (PAL. DIMW), first-summer on 8th July (DIMW), adult on 18th July (DIMW), sub-adult on 20th August (JED) and probably the same bird on 26th August (MJ), adult on 1st September (AG), adult on 9th September (GC. GT), first-year on 2nd and 10th October (AG. PAL. DIMW), adult on 3rd December and first-year on 6th December (PAL. DIMW). First-year at Hornsea on 30th August (WFC) and a first-year bird at Bridlington from 31st October to year-end (DEM. *et al*).

V.C. 62: An adult assuming summer plumage at Scalby Mills on 18th February (KR. AG. *et al*), adult at Cornelian Bay on 25th March (RHA), adult at Scalby on 16th April (MDW), adult in Jackson's Bay on 25th August (RHA), adult at Scalby Mills on 2nd and 14th September and at Burniston on 20th (JED. RHA. MF) and an adult on Seamer Road Mere on 13th December (TDC. PM).

V.C. 63: Sub-adult at Whiteholme Res. on 29th May (DJS), sub-adult at Newington Flash on 26th July (CHW) and a first-year at Wath Ings on 24th December (JMT. JH. NA).

V.C. 64: A first-summer at Fairburn Ings on 4th June (CW).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

An adult was seen on seven occasions at Fairburn Ings between 24th September and 7th October. It did not spend any time during the day there and was only seen in flight over the reserve with no evidence of feeding or roosting in the area. (PK. CW. *et al*).

An adult at Flamborough on 19th September (AG. PAL. IS).

A first-year bird was in Bridlington North Bay on 28th September (DIMW) and a sub-adult was at the Bridlington sewer outlet on 13th November (SR).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

An increase in numbers and localities with birds along the coast in every month. Numbers in the early months were small and mainly involved single birds. Autumn build-up started in July with ten at Flamborough on 28th and 13 at Hornsea Mere on 31st. Maxima of 23 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd August (PB. PWI), 66 at Hornsea Mere on 24th August, 63 on 30th August and 56 on 3rd September, a rapid decrease following (WFC. JEA. RGS). 66 flew north off Spurn on 1st October and 107 did so off Hornsea and 89 off Flamborough on same date (WFC. PAL. IS). Numbers thereafter were small with seven at Flamborough and eight at Filey on 15th October, eight at Flamborough on 28th November, 14 on 8th December, seven on 9th and five on 31st (PAL. IS).

Inland birds were also relatively numerous and V.C. 63 had records from 12 waters during April to October, mainly during April/May and August and usually singly except for four

adults at Blacktoft Sands and four at Wath Ings on 9th May (probably same birds) and 12 adults at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd April. In contrast, V.C. 64 had birds at only two waters; one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 16th May and passage at Fairburn Ings in May with maxima of 17 on 4th and six on 31st. A pair stayed at Fairburn to breed and incubation began on 6th June. One adult was found injured on 26th June and the other deserted the nest site but remained in the area until 9th July. Only the second known breeding record for Britain (SCM. *et al*).

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

An exceptional year including the first inland record for the county at Knotford Nook G.P. on 5th September. The bird was an adult in full summer plumage and was sketched and described by D. M. Pullan. See figure 1.

In the early part of the year there were six records at Flamborough: two adults south on 28th January (DIMW), one adult north on 16th April (PAL. IS) and four north (3 adults) on 1st May (PAL. DIMW). Single first-year birds flew north on 12th June and 28th July (PAL).

August produced one at Flamborough and one at Mappleton (adult in summer plumage) on 6th (DIMW. WFC), two adults in full plumage at Flamborough on 28th (PAL. SR) and one on 30th (DIMW).

In September, an adult south at Spurn on 8th, an adult south at Filey on 12th (AMP), four adults at Flamborough on 19th (WFC. RGH. SCM. *et al*), one at Burniston (first-year) on 21st (RHA. MF) and single first-year birds at Flamborough on 28th and 29th (PAL. SR).

In October there were singles at Hornsea (adult) on 1st (WFC), Flamborough (first-year) on 2nd (AG), Scalby Mills (first-year) on 11th and 12th (PD), Scarborough (adult) on 17th (RHA), Filey (first-year) on 21st (AMP) and Scalby Mills (adult) on 22nd (RHA).

December records were one adult at Flamborough on 17th (PAL. DIMW), two on 28th when one was also seen at Spurn, an adult on 30th and three adults and three first-year birds on 31st (DIMW).

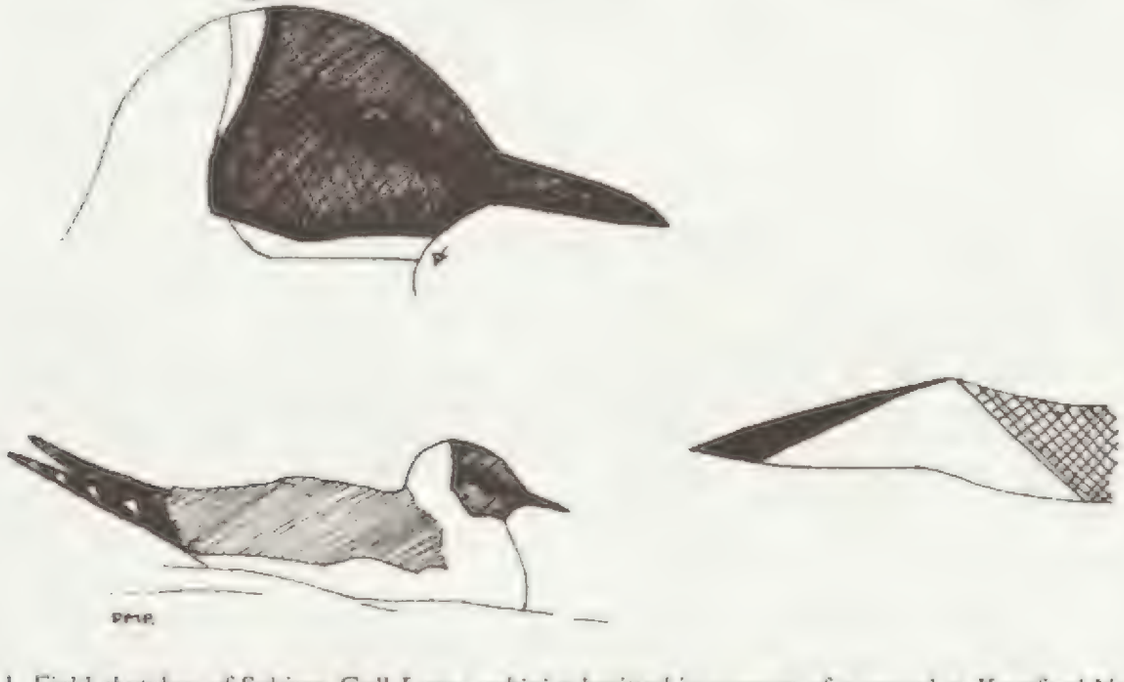


Fig. 1. Field sketches of Sabines Gull *Larus sabini* submitted in support of a record at Knotford Nook Gravel Pit on 5th September 1978, the first inland record for Yorkshire. Drawn by D. M. Pullan.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Very common and widespread throughout the county during the non-breeding season with some large assemblies at roosts. 5,000 to 6,000 were along the Humber shore on the census dates of 15th January and 5th February (per DBC) and 14,000 were at a roost off-shore at Barmston on 12th March (SML). 15,000 were at Wintersett Res. on 2nd January and 10,000 roosted at Blacktoft Sands during the autumn. Reported breeding colonies in

V.C. 63 were 150 pairs at Black Moss, 250 pairs at Potteric Carr, 15 pairs at Aldwarke S.F., 12 pairs at Upper Walshaw Dene and four pairs on Crow Hill, above Halifax. 6,000 pairs bred at Stocks Res. (V.C. 64) (JF). There were many other colonies on the moorland tarns of the north-west including Locker Tarn and Summer Lodge Tarn where there were *ca* 200 young on 16th July.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The usual spring passage northwards along the coast involved *ca* 25 per hour at Filey and 330 in two hours at Flamborough on 15th April (HJW, PAL). Numbers inland were normal with large gatherings at roosting waters.

15,000 gulls in the Upper Humber on 19th February and 50,000 on 18th October were mainly this species and Herring Gull (DIMW).

One pair bred near Settle for the third successive year (BSh).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Passage through the eastern part of the county had the low maxima of 30 at Market Weighton on 14th August and 45 at Welwick Salting on 18th November (SML). Spurn had maxima of 29 in June and 44 in July otherwise numbers were usually below ten.

Several birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race *L.f.fuscus* were recorded along the coast and *ca* eight individuals inland in V.C. 63 and four in V.C. 64. Two were at Wheldrake Ings in April.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

ca 1,250 pairs nested on the Bempton Cliffs (SR). Large numbers at Filey during the winter months with maxima of 1,100 on 5th January and 4th March (SML, TIC, HJW) and 1,200 on 7th October (TIC). Large numbers flew south at Spurn in December with 5,900 on 30th and 9,900 on 31st.

Birds showing characters of *L.a.omissus* were recorded flying south at Flamborough during December and 57 were counted on eight dates. Winds from the south-east usually brought these birds and the passage would drop when the wind shifted. Several were of the eastern yellow-egged form (PAL).

Flocks at inland waters and tips occurred at many of the usual places, 200 to 500 being normal but larger gatherings were 700 at Broomhead Res. in mid-December and 2,000 t Wintersett Res. on 10th December and 1,000 on 31st. A sub-adult at Catterick Tip on 9th April had a green colour ring on the left leg and a red and black one on the right.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

V.C. 61: Single adults flying south at Spurn on 22nd January and 18th November. An adult on Filey Brigg on 15th January (NAB, AMP), first-winter at Filey on 16th February (SML) and single first-winter birds at Flamborough on 25th March and 9th April (PAL).

V.C. 62: Second-year in Scarborough Harbour on 28th January (RHA), first-winter at Burniston on 5th February (MF), Scarborough on 25th February (BEP) and Scalby Mills on 25th and 26th March (RHA, MM). A third-year at Scalby Mills on 8th April (MM).

V.C. 63: An adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th January (GMY).

V.C. 64: An adult at Farnham G.P. on 6th January (PTT).

V.C. 65: One in the Bolton-on-Swale area from 28th February to 16th April (GDM).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

V.C. 61: Filey had up to three first-winter birds and an adult on many dates to mid-February then one to two first-winters and a second-winter up to 7th April. Hornsea Mere had single first-winter birds on four days in mid-February and 5th and 12th March with a second-year on 11th March (AMA, SML, RGH). A first-year and two third-year birds at Wilsthorpe on 11th March and a second-year at Barmston on same date (SML). A first-year at Withernsea on 14th March (SML). Flamborough had singles on four dates in March with two on 27th and on five dates in April with two on 15th (PAL, IS). A first-year at Filey on 3rd May (IF, HJW). Flamborough had single adults on 9th/10th September, 20th, 24th and

29th with a first-year on latter date and on 25th December. Filey had adults on 17th September and 4th November with a second-winter on 26th November (HJW. *et al*). A presumed hybrid Herring×Glaucous was at Flamborough on 24th June (PAL. IS).

V.C. 62: At least 12 individual birds frequented the Scarborough area (Burniston, south to Cornelian Bay) during January to 4th April with seven in Scarborough Harbour on 22nd March (three first-winter, one second-winter, one third-winter and two adults) (RHA. MM). At the year-end, were a first-winter on 25th August, second-winter on 25th October, third-winter on 27th/28th October (RHA). A first-winter in Whitby Harbour on 2nd December (JHL).

V.C. 63: Blackmoorfoot Res. had three different adults on five January dates (MLD. JED. PB) and a first-year on 28th January (GMY). Wintersett Res. had a second-winter on 1st January (PS), adult on 22nd January (PS. GJS) and a first-winter on 31st December (PS. GJS). A first-winter at Southfield Res. on 21st February (CWa) and a second-winter at Broomhead Res. on 2nd April (JED).

V.C. 64: A first-winter at Swinsty Res. on 5th January and 4th February (GTP). Adult at Eccup Res. on 6th October (AT. AM). Single 'white' gulls at the Fairburn Ings roost on 21st March, 13th May and 8th November were not seen well enough to be specific.

Addition to 1976 Report: One at Fairburn Ings on 11th/12th April.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The estuary count on 15th January showed a total of 480 along the Humber shore from Spurn to Goole and 777 on 5th February (per DBC). 350 were in the Filey area on 5th January but numbers thereafter were much lower and of 100 present on 28th March, only six were fully adult (HJW). 350 to 450 were at Filey during August and September. Flamborough had a maximum of 1,800 on 28th September (PAL. IS). Birds flew south at Spurn on several days, mainly during the autumn with maximum of 1,200 during December.

The *leucistic* individual in the Scalby area was seen again in February for the fourth successive year. A claimed *albino* at Flamborough on 19th February was not stated to have pink eyes, the lack of which would have indicated *leucism* (DIMW).

The Wintersett Res. roost attracted 1,100 on 1st January and 1,500 on 30th December, a further increase. Numbers at the other suitable inland waters did not exceed 200 except at Fairburn Ings where there were 300 in January and 550 in December. On 9th August, an adult flying over the main Ing, dropped onto a fully grown juvenile Moorhen and killed it with successive blows with its bill. It then picked it up and swallowed it whole, head first in three gulps. The feet protruded from the bill for some while (GC).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

100,000 pairs were estimated to have nested on the whole of Flamborough Head (including Bempton) and the increase continues (SR). Several pairs nested on window ledges of buildings over the Gypsy Race flowing into Bridlington Harbour (FW. DEM. WFC). 20,000 birds were off Flamborough Head on 24th March (DIMW) and 8,000 per hour were passing north there on 14th April (AG).

300 pairs bred on the cliffs north of Long Nab, Burniston (JW) and several of these were shot whilst incubating and were lying dead on their nests on 26th June (MF).

Up river, at Blacktoft Sands there were 18 on 17th May, 75 on 18th May, 27 on 30th May and 16 on 31st May (all adults) (AG). Singles occurred at several inland waters during January to May and July to December, mainly the latter period with seven juveniles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th September during a north-westerly gale. Five adults flew north over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 21st May and 75 adults flew into Lumley Moor Res. (Upper Nidderdale) on 29th January, circled in a tight pack and finally flew off to the south-east (MGHG). Five flew east at Fairburn Ings on 2nd February.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

An adult flew north over the sea at Hornsea on 19th July (AMA).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicencis*

One at Filey on 20th March was the first of spring followed by singles on 24th and 27th with one at Spurn on 28th and Scarborough on 29th. Large numbers passed along the coast in autumn with 530 at Filey on 1st August, 500 at Flamborough on 26th and 700 at Spurn on one August day.

Birds passed into October with singles at Spurn on 16th and 17th and one at Flamborough on 15th.

Inland, birds occurred at eleven places, mainly singly and during July to September. Larger numbers were five at Knotford Nook G.P. on 4th April, four at Wath Ings on 26th August, and three at Fairburn Ings on 5th September.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

One at Flamborough on 21st May, two on 26th May and two on 11th June, one on 15th July, two on 22nd July, one on 1st September and one on 1st October (PAL. IS). One at Filey Brigg on 13th September (HJW). Singles at Spurn on 15th August and 8th September. One was at Wheldrake Ings on 17th June (TMC). One at Potteric Carr on 8th May (CHW) and one at Wintersett Res. on 9th July (PS. GJS).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

One at Spurn on 15th April was the first with one at Fairburn Ings on 16th and two at Wath Ings on 19th and 24th. Heavy passage along the coast in autumn, Spurn having birds daily during August/September with maximum in one day being 1,000 on 10th September. Most birds moved south in the evenings. 109 flew south at Filey in three hours on 23rd July and 306 flew north on 1st August. 400 passed Flamborough on 26th August. Birds were seen regularly to end of September and a few to mid-October, one at Spurn on 17th on which date 34 others were not specified.

One to four occurred at many inland waters from April to September, mainly during July/August/September. Fairburn Ings had small parties passing through from late April and 117 identified at the end of June (cf: Arctic (572)) and up to eight on several dates to end of September. Knotford Nook G.P. had nine on 4th September and eight on 6th, seven flew over Askham Bog on 8th May and Castle Howard had 14 and eight in August and ten were at Wath Ings in July.

Birds not specified included maxima of 90 east at Wharncliffe Chase on 2nd May, 40 at Thrybergh Res. on 6th/7th May, 26 at Wath Ings on 6th, 40 at Potteric Carr on 5th/6th and 37 at Main on 2nd. In the autumn 80 flew west at Wintersett Res. on 15th September as maximum.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

One at Filey on 24th March was early (MA. AMP), the next being at Spurn on 16th April. Passage along the coast in spring and autumn involved smaller numbers than Common Tern when birds were specified but of 300 over Hornsea on 6th May, this species was said to outnumber Common (EHW). Passage at Flamborough in July when 31 flew north on 16th, 62 on 21st and 37 on 22nd (DIMW). 27 flew north at Withernsea on 27th September (SML).

Fairburn Ings had a good passage with 22 on 20th April, low single figures on several dates thereafter to early May with 25 on 3rd, 205 on 5th, 123 on 6th, 16 on 7th, 67 on 8th, 40 on 10th and 15 on 15th. All flew north-east (SCM. *et al*). Other inland waters experienced similar movements: 40 flew east at Blacktoft Sands on 5th May, 25 on 6th and 70 on 7th. Potteric Carr had one to 16 on several dates during the month, Knotford Nook G.P. had 50 on 6th, and 30 were at Nosterfield G.P. on same day. *ca* 12 other inland waters had low single figures during May and again during autumn.

A juvenile in Scarborough Harbour on 1st November was the last (RHA).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Spurn had two on 30th April with two at Flamborough on 1st May. Easington Lagoons had a small colony with 22 present on 7th May, 30 on 15th and 26 on 27th including four birds apparently on eggs (SML). Only eight birds on 11th June but four still sitting. 21 on 27th June but no chicks seen (MT). No breeding was confirmed at Spurn Point.

Small numbers were seen along the coast during the summer and autumn, mainly low single figures but 11 off Hornsea on 15th September (WFC).

Birds occurred inland at nine waters; singles at Wath Ings on 27th April, two at Fairburn Ings on 4th May and singles on 7th and 16th, Wintersett Res. on 29th May, Farnham G.P. on 6th May and Nosterfield G.P. on 15th June. Potteric Carr had singles on 3rd May and 11th July. One at Knotford Nook G.P. on 21st July and one on 2nd August. Two at Swillington Ings on 28th August and one at Staveley Lagoon on 12th September.

Black Tern *Childonias niger*

Birds passed through the county from April to October, the majority being in autumn. One to three birds occurred at 22 inland waters and at Filey from 23rd April to end of May, maxima being seven at Fairburn Ings on 16th May and 17 on 1st June. A marked light passage on 4th June when nine inland waters had one to four birds and six at Wath Ings.

In the autumn birds passed at 20 inland waters and along the coast. The first was at Hornsea Mere on 26th July where there were up to four on several August dates and then the main influx in September. The Mere had birds daily from 10th to 24th with a maximum of 11 on 11th/12th. Filey had nine on 9th September, 15 on 10th, 17 on 13th and nine on 16th with fewer to 23rd. Flamborough had three daily from 17th to 19th September, 18 on 9th and nine on 10th being maxima. Late birds on the coast were singles at Flamborough and Filey on 10th October and four at Hornsea Mere on 11th. Birds at the inland waters numbered one to five and were mainly during September with late ones at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th (5) and 12th (3).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

One in full summer plumage at Hornsea Mere on 13th May (RGH, NAB, GED).

An immature at Tophill Low Res. from 7th to 10th August (DB, PB, PWI).

Accepted by *British birds* Rarities Committee.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

The total count at Bempton produced 13,250 birds (9,224 in 1977). Only one third of the birds were actually breeding and success was apparently low. Large visitations to the cliffs on some dates during the winter after rough weather, numbers sometimes being in excess of the breeding total (SR). Movements offshore at Flamborough were 6,500 north on 28th November, 5,250 north on 10th December, 8,150 north on 17th December and 5,600 north in ¾ hour on 18th December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

A complete census showed 3,000 birds in the breeding season on the cliffs at Bempton, indicating an improvement over last year's figures. The species had deserted the cliffs by 17th August (SR).

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Two adults in full plumage at Flamborough on 2nd July (PAL. IS) on which date an adult flew south at Filey (AB. VAL. HJW). Single adults at Flamborough on 9th July and 16th December (PAL. IS).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Flamborough had singles on 22nd and 28th January with two on 30th (DIMW), singles on 30th April, 1st May and two on 21st May (north) (PAL. IS. DIMW), singles on 19th September and 1st October and 33 flying north on 26th November (AG. PAL. IS). Filey had singles on 25th February (dead next day) and 4th March (dead/oiled), one on 5th/6th April, three on 26th November, 12 north on 28th November and 38 north on 24th December (AG. PAL. IS).

Nine flew north at Burniston on 12th January (MF) and one off Scarborough on 30th (MDW). One dead at Scarborough on 8th April (BN). One at Spurn flying south over the Humber with Starlings on 12th October, two in over the sea with Starlings on 10th November, one north on 28th November and two on 29th December.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

An estimated 2,000 pairs bred on the Bempton Cliffs but the numbers present varied considerably according to the weather. On 12th June, 6–7,000 were present in the late evening after virtually none the day before. A mass exodus from the cliffs on 14th August (SR). Movement north off Flamborough in autumn involved 2,000 on 1st July, 7,000 on 8th July and 3,500 on 13th August (PAL. IS).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Birds showing characters of the 'true blue' wild Rock Dove were prevalent amongst the large feral population on the Bempton/Flamborough cliffs and elsewhere along the coast.

Stock Dove *Columba cenas*

There were several flocks of up to 50 birds and a few up to *ca* 80 mainly in V.C.'s 63 and 64 during the winter months. Larger flocks were; V.C. 61: 160 near Patrington on 4th February (SML), 100 including one flock of 90 on the Upper Humber on 24th October (DIMW). V.C. 63: 120 on Hatfield Moor on 7th January, 300 at Cadeby in January, 235 at Bolton-on-Dearne on 19th November and 100 at Ingbirchworth on 26th November. V.C. 64: 130 at Arthington Pastures on 4th November and 160 at a pre-roost assembly at Harewood on 12th November.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Passage at Spurn in March when birds flew south with 380 on 24th, 488 on 25th and 218 on 26th. Flamborough had small numbers in March and 200 on 29th April, 450 on 5th May, 300 on 7th May, 140 on 14th May and 50 on 15th (DIMW).

Flocks inland were numerous and widespread but involved smaller numbers than last year. Those in excess of 1,000 were 1,500 at Stripes Wood, near York on 11th April, 1,300 at Arthington Pastures on 8th April, 1,400 on Eccup Moor on 28th October, 3,000 at Staveley Lagoon on 18th November and 1,200 at Hooton Pagnell on 18th November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Stated to be stable in V.C. 61. Large flocks occurred at the regular places in V.C.'s 63 and 64 with up to 200 at Sprotborough Flash during January/February and 200 at Swinefleet Common on 13th February, 200 roosting at Selby during January/February and 150 at

Staveley Lagoon on 12th November. Smaller flocks were common and the species was widespread in many habitats including inner suburbia in many towns. Common in the Richmond area. Scarcest on the high ground of the west.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

The first were at Potteric Carr on 7th April and Denaby Ings on 10th. Recorded at four other V.C. 63 localities in April and the main arrival during the first week of May. 70 were on Potteric Carr on 24th May. Westerly passage at Blacktoft Sands with 162 between 4th May and 6th July. Fewer passed east in autumn. 45 were at Eskrick on 18th May. 75 pairs were present during the breeding season on Hatfield Moor. Coastal passage at Spurn and Flamborough during late May and June. 100 flew south at Spurn on 6th June.

Some birds lingered into late September as usual with a late record at Wath Ings on 14th October. One at Flamborough on 13th October and a tired bird on the rocks at Filey Brigg on 29th October (AMP).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Numbers in the western moorland areas of V.C. 63 were considered to be higher than of late.

One at Cudworth on 16th April then a widespread arrival during the period 22nd to 24th when reports came from most parts of the county.

Passage at Spurn during May peaked at nine birds on 16th. Singles at Filey on 16th September and Flamborough on 21st were the last coastal records but one was at Knostrop on 38th September.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*

One caught and ringed at Spurn Point on 27th October (PH. JRM. BRS. *et al*).

Plate 1: Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (first-year) caught and ringed at Spurn Bird Observatory on 27th October 1978. The second Yorkshire record. Photo: Geoff Neal.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Several sightings of single birds from over most of the county but confirmed breeding records scarce. Five pairs bred in the Doncaster area, one near Rotherham and one near Barnsley. A nest at Swinefleet on 11th February contained four cold eggs. Successful pairs at Knapton (4 young), Copmanthorpe (4 young), Acaster Malbis (2 young), Cawood (3 young) and near Wheldrake.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Appears to be under-recorded in most localities and breeding records very few. Single birds seen in many places around York with four confirmed breeding pairs. 18 places in Nidderdale and 26 places in the Leeds recording area with four confirmed breeding pairs. A pair bred near Bempton village. Several pairs in the Bradford area were thought to have bred.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Very few clubs and individuals reported this species in detail. Numerous in suburban Leeds and Bradford and obviously well distributed and successful.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: No roosts of note reported. Single birds at Dane's Dyke on 22nd January, Bempton on 26th January, Hornsea Mere on 18th February, coming in over the sea at Flamborough on 29th April and Kilnsea on 23rd May. One in Dane's Dyke on 13th May. In autumn, Flamborough had one on 1st October and two on 14th, three in over the sea at Hornsea on 27th October and singles at Flamborough on 29th November and 18th December. Spurn had one on 31st October and 1st November, one on 5th December, two on 6th, five on 7th and eight on 9th. Two pairs bred on Skipwith Common (J. and AD) and one near Wheldrake.

V.C. 62: One flew in over the sea at Scalby Mills on 8th October. One pair bred at Huby, near Easingwold. One near Yarm on 20th May.

V.C. 63: Roosts at Haw Park with maxima of eight in January and on 17th December and Denaby with five on 21st December. Breeding reports were encouraging: four pairs on moorlands west of Halifax (three of which reared young), two pairs reared five young near Huddersfield, three pairs in the Barnsley area, eight pairs in the Doncaster area including four on Hatfield Moor which reared seven young and three pairs on Thorne Moor.

V.C. 64: Single birds at Owston in January, Staveley Lagoon on 30th July, Byram on 27th August and Fairburn Ings on 31st December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

As in most recent years, records of single birds in the non-breeding season were widespread and numerous. Seven were along the Humber Shore on 15th January (per DBC) and up to three regularly at Tophill Low Res., Cowden, Atwick, Flamborough, Filey and Barmston.

A marked influx in October when several coastal watch-points had birds. Four flew in over the sea at Filey on 14th (TIC. HJW) with singles seen similarly at Flamborough on 18th (AG), Kilnsea on 21st October (SML), Filey on 4th November and three there on 12th. Up to four were seen regularly at Grimston in December. Four singles seen along the Scarborough area coast between 13th and 18th October and three at Cayton Bay on 11th November. Blacktoft Sands had four in January, up to eight in March, six in October and seven on 9th November.

Other large gatherings inland were five at Wath Ings in late December, eight at Carlton Industrial Estate in early November and five at Carlton Marsh in November/December. Five were at Staveley Lagoon on 18th December and five at Bishop Monkton Ings in November.

Good population in Langstrothdale with seven birds seen on 8th April and one pair had eight eggs.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C. 61: Five pairs on Skipwith Common (GS) where first of year was on 17th May (FWO).

V.C. 62: One found dead at Hackness on 26th May (PF) and one was near Scarborough on 28th May (MF). Singles at Silpho and Langdale Bank on 3rd and 4th June (MF) and a pair displaying at the former site on 17th June (DJB) with two chicks seen on 21st July (MC). One found dead at Bickley on 12th August (BN). Seven pairs in the Scarborough district (RHA).

V.C. 63: First seen on Thorne Moor on 28th May with up to six singing during June. One pair bred on Rawcliffe Moors where there was a male on 20th August. Hatfield Moor had the first on 15th May and a remarkable total of 40 singing males mapped during the breeding season (ML. *et al*). A nest found in late July and the last birds seen were two on 1st September and one on 4th, 6th and 7th September.

V.C. 64: No records.

V.C. 65: Singing birds reported from Whitcliffe Woods and Hadswell Moor, near Richmond.

Swift *Apus apus*

After the first at Bishopthorpe on 21st April there was a very widespread arrival on the 24th when birds were seen at Hornsea Mere, Fairburn Ings (6), Knotford Nook G.P. (2), Carlton Marsh and Wath Ings with more new arrivals during the next few days. As usual, the main influx was not until the second week of May.

There were some spectacular gatherings in late summer, usually influenced by poor weather including 2,500 at Hornsea Mere on 17th July, 2,500 flying north-west at Wath Ings on 20th and 2,000 at Fly Flatts Res. on 8th August. Fairburn Ings had 2,500 on 13th June and 2,000 on 5th July. Ten were killed by traffic at Catcliffe Flash on 7th July whilst feeding low due to cold wet weather.

The usual large numbers passed south along Spurn peninsula from June to September, maxima being 1,439 on 5th June, 1,245 on 6th, 10,000 on 19th July, 2,000 on 20th, 1,100 on 22nd and 1,100 on 16th August. Some lingered into October although most had left by mid-September except at Fairburn Ings where birds were present to month-end with 60 on 30th and the last on 11th October. Other late October birds were at Rotherham on 11th, Flamborough on 12th, Worsborough Res. on 15th (2), Spurn on 18th and near Sheffield on 19th.

An aberrant bird showing much white on the underparts at Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 16th June resembled an Alpine Swift when seen briefly (MB. MDW).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One over Flamborough village on 1st July (PAL).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kingfisher *Atthis alcedo*

Appears to be increasing in V.C. 61 with more records than of late but only one pair proved at Kirkham Abbey. Several records from the forest areas west of Scarborough and one flying over the sea at Cornelian Bay on 15th September (DJP) and one frequently hovering over the rock pools at Scalby Mills on 3rd October (RHA). Eight pairs proved to breed in V.C. 63 and 13 other pairs present: Halifax area (1 proved, 3 present), Huddersfield area (1 proved, 3 present), Barnsley area (2 proved, 3 present), Doncaster area (3 proved, 4 present) and Rotherham (1 proved). 12 pairs proved breeding in V.C. 64 and two more very possible. Three pairs on the River Ouse between Bishopthorpe and Naburn, single pairs at Selby Brick Ponds, Askham Bog and Fulford Ings. Two pairs almost certainly bred in the Leeds area. Single birds were seen at many other places throughout the county.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One on the Knavesmire, York on 22nd April (EM). One at Grimston on 29th April was calling at dawn on 30th (AWW). One at Filey on 30th April (HC). One at Long Nab, Burniston on 12th May (MF) and one at Blacktoft Sands on 18th May (DPA).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

V.C. 61: One of the best spring passages on record for this species starting with two at Grimston on 30th April (AWW) and one at Filey and ten at Flamborough on 1st May (HJW. PAL) then 23 at Flamborough on 2nd May (AG. PAL). Seven at Flamborough and one at Weeton on 3rd (MT), three at the former on 5th, eight on 6th (DJB. PAL) when four were at Filey (TIC. HJW). Single at Filey and two at Grimston on 7th May (AWW), one at Weeton on 9th (MT) and singles at Flamborough on 15th, 22nd and 24th with three on 23rd (AG. PAL. IS). Spurn had two on 30th April then one to two on several dates thereafter to 25th May with five on 7th.

The only autumn records came from Spurn with one on 30th August, one on 2nd September and two on 6th, and one on 1st October.

V.C. 62: Three at Scalby Mills on 2nd May and one at Cornelian Bay on 3rd (MF. FAW. JW).

V.C. 63: Singles on Silkstone Common on 6th May (TP) and Ingbirchworth Res. on 27th May (FJW).

V.C. 64: One at Leighton Res. on 28th April (PJC) and one near Settle on 4th May (BSh). One found dead at Askham Bog in August was taken to the York Museum. One near Follifoot on 12th September (AO'N).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

V.C. 61: Relatively common in the Burnby area where present all year and eight seen on 21st April (PD). Bred at Skipwith Common, Strensall Common and Grimston Woods (GS. BGP. PH). Singles along the Lower Derwent on several dates throughout the year. Seen at Tophill Low Res. on several dates and bred unsuccessfully at Hornsea.

V.C. 62: Records of single birds came from Darby, Ruswarp, Commondale, Hayburn Wyke, Scalby, Burniston, Mowthorpe, Birch Hall, Ellerburn Banks and Scarborough (JW. MF. J. and AD). No breeding records.

V.C. 63: Fewer records than usual received. Six certain pairs in the Langsett-Ewden area and probably three more. Two pairs bred near Huddersfield and records from 12 other localities in district. Three pairs during summer at Hardcastle Cragg. Five males present on Hatfield Moor.

V.C. 64: Thinly distributed over much of the vice-county. Reported from 12 localities in all months in the Leeds area but no breeding records. Records from at least 30 localities in Nidderdale but no breeding records. Several records from Wharfedale and bred at Hebden. One was pursued relentlessly by a Sparrow Hawk at Lindley Res. on 9th September (FAW). Stated to be 'as common as it ever will be' in the Settle area (BSh).

V.C. 65: Records from Richmond, Leighton Res., Healey and Marske.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

V.C.'s 63 and 64 provided most records as usual: 16 pairs were located in the Barnsley area, nine pairs bred in the Doncaster area and four other pairs present. Pairs in five woods in the Huddersfield area. Three pairs bred in Harewood Park and three in Bramham Park. Several other breeding records of single pairs and many records of single birds throughout the year.

One came in over the sea at Flamborough on 26th September and singles there on 10th and 11th October (SR. AG. *et al*). A bird of the British race was found dead at Filey on 15th July.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

V.C. 61: No records.

V.C. 62: Only two records, one in Duncombe Park on 21st May (J. and AD) and a female collecting food there on 3rd June (GWF). Several records of singles in the southern part of the vice-county.

V.C. 63: Single pairs bred near Huddersfield and near Worsborough and there were single sightings from 19 other places mainly during April/May and September to year-end.

V.C. 64: More records than usual from Nidderdale with one to two birds at seven localities on several dates mainly at the year-end. Recorded from five places in the Leeds area and from Swillington Ings, Knotford Nook G.P., and Harewood Park. Two pairs bred: one at Carthwick Wood, near Leeds and one in Bramham Park. Fairburn Ings, where the bird is rare, had one in February, one to two on several July dates and singles in August, September and November. Probably nested at Morley.

V.C. 65: Birds present in Whitcliffe Wood, near Richmond and near Hunton.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One at Spurn on 10th September, one at Flamborough on 13th October (DIMW), and one flying south at Grimston on 16th October (AWW).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Southerly movement along the coast during hard weather in January/February. Small numbers at Spurn during February and movement witnessed further north with maxima on 24th February when many passed over Burniston in small flocks during the morning and 400 in afternoon (MF).

Inland areas were affected by the snow cover and 2,500 were at Hatfield Marina on 10th February after a sudden influx; 1,000 remained by 16th. Other areas had movement during this period; 381 flew south-east over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 11th with 751 next day when 250 were at Swillington Ings. 150 fed on waste ground near York Railway Station on 10th. 350 on Malham Moor during a cold period with snow from 9th to 14th April. A cold period at the end of December moved birds on, and on 30th 136 flew south-west over Fairburn Ings, 310 flew north-east over Swillington Ings and 450 flew south at Blacktoft Sands.

Shore Lark *Eremophilia alpestris*

Very few in the early months; eight to 12 at Hundale Point (V.C. 62) from 3rd to 19th January and 11 on 9th February (MF). Spurn had singles on 4th January and 26th February.

One at Spurn on 2nd and 4th October and one to two to month-end. Almost daily during November and eight on 16th and 25th. 14 flew south on 18th November then daily to 17th with 11 on 3rd and nine on 10th and 12th. Flamborough had one on 11th October then six on 5th November and 14 on 18th December with one to two on 12th and 19th November and 16th December (PAL, IS). One at Easington on 28th October (SML). The Fraisthorpe/Barmiston area had birds from 31st October to 17th December, 25 on 3rd December, ten on 10th and 16 on 17th being maxima (IF, DEM, KR).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One at Denaby Ings on 13th March was very early followed by five at Fairburn Ings on 16th and two on 18th. A few places had birds during the last three days of the month but it was mid-April before they were widespread.

Some large roosting assemblies were reported. Fairburn Ings had 15,000 by 23rd August and on 29th. 7,000 on 3rd September dropped to 4,000 by 10th and 300 by 17th. 2,500 were at Blacktoft Sands on 20th August and 4,000 at Mickletown Ings on 1st September. Most birds had departed by the third week of September but the usual stragglers were reported in October, the latest being singles at Filey on 14th, and Potteric Carr on 15th with six at the latter on 19th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first and well ahead of the next one was one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st April followed by one at Fairburn Ings on 8th. The species was not generally distributed until the third week in April. Several roosts were reported, the largest being at Fairburn Ings where 300 in late July built up to 5,000 by 23rd August, 12,000 by 29th, 25,000 by 2nd September, 6,000 on 9th September, 8,000 on 17th and 7,000 to month-end with 1,000 on 6th October and 30 by 20th. Wheldrake Ings, Carlton Marsh and Mickletown Ings had up to 5,000 roosting birds and Potteric Carr had 8,000 on 15th September. 'Thousands' were roosting on the Humber Wildgowl Refuge on 3rd October (ACh). Passage at Spurn in autumn was spec-

tacular as usual and a total of 14,808 were counted flying south on 29 dates in August, eight days having over 1,000 birds. September had 28,536 birds on 26 days, daily maximum being 9,400 on 13th. Several were seen during October and early November the latest being singles at Staveley Lagoon on 12th, Fairburn Ings on 13th, two at Naburn S.F. on 21st and one at Cherry Cobb Sands on 25th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

One at North Cave on 17th April (BSP) was the first, with one at Hornsea Mere next day and Tophill Low Res. and Otley on 20th. The first main arrival was during the 22nd/23rd period when several areas had their first. Spurn had southerly passage on several spring days and in autumn from July to November, daily maxima being 1,200 on 11th October, 1,700 on 13th and 1,800 on 14th.

Late birds were singles at Fairburn Ings on 3rd November, East Keswick on 9th, Wath Ings on 11th, Hatfield on 18th, two at Hornsea Mere on 20th, eight on Hornsea sea front and one at Whitby on 24th, and one at Flamborough on 25th and the last at Hornsea on 26th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

One at Spurn on 11th October (JC. JSG) and one on 29th (AG. KR). One at Scarborough on 14th October (RHA).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One at Filey on 7th August (PJD).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

The first records were on 15th April near Sheffield and 18th at Staveley Lagoon. Some obvious arrivals along the coast in late April and May. 13 were at Grimston on 30th April and 34 at Flamborough on 1st May (when 26 were at Spurn) increasing to 57 on 2nd and decreasing to 41 by 5th and 28 by 7th (AG. PAL. IS).

Flamborough had singles on 1st and 14th October (PAL. IS) and Spurn had singles on 13th, 14th and 16th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Some good spring passage flocks inland. 150 at Wath Ings on 21st March, 200 at Hay-a-Park G.P. and 190 at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th April, 300 at Lofthouse (Upper Nidderdale) on 10th, and 250 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 20th. Many other places had smaller numbers moving through.

Numbers passing at Spurn did not equal the high figures of 1977 and the daily maxima were 4,750 on 9th September, 5,600 on 13th and 4,000 on 16th. *ca* 30,600 birds passed during September. On 16th, 2,000 were counted flying south at Grimston (AWW) and the movement was witnessed at other places up the coast. Movement was evident inland during the same period and 200 flew south at Wath Ings on 14th September and 500 on 7th October with 200 flying west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th October. 400 flew south-west at Swillington on 16th, 630 on 17th, 450 on 23rd, 542 on 24th and 100 in area on 1st October.

During the very cold spell during mid-April in the Ribble Valley area, two flocks of 300 and 200 were present on 13th (BSh).

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Regular at Spurn during January to May and September to year-end with southerly movement noted on several autumn days. 253 passed during October with 46 on 12th and 35 on 21st and 51 birds in early November with 24 on 5th. Ten were at Filey on 4th March and 2nd April and nine at Easington Lagoons on 28th October.

Inland records are more numerous now than formerly and V.C. 63 had single birds on 21 dates and two on two dates at five localities mainly during March/April and October. Blacktoft Sands had one to two on several dates during the same period. In contrast, V.C. 64 had

only four records; singles at Swillington Ings on 14th April and Fairburn Ings on 17th February, 18th September and 14th October.

Birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race *A.s.littoralis* which are now known to pass through in fair numbers each spring, occurred at Scarborough, Filey, Flamborough, Hornsea and Kilnsea from mid-March to end-March. One to three birds were normal but four at Hornsea on 18th March (RGH) and six at Flamborough on 31st March (PAL. IS). Singles were at Flamborough on 14th and 25th May. A bird in good plumage with a pink flush on the upper breast was in Langsthrothsdale on 11th April (GWP).

Single Water Pipits *A.s.spinoletta* were at Elland G.P. from 1st to 25th January, Wintersett Res. from 7th–9th April and 23rd April, Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th November (MLD. PB) and one at Flamborough in full summer plumage on 21st May (PAL. DIMW).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

An early bird was at Tophioll Low Res. on 25th March (NAB) and well in advance of the next on Thorne Moor, Skipwith Common and Hornsea Mere on 15th April. Birds occurred at a few other places during the next few days and became widespread from the 22nd. 40 were at Wath Ings on 24th and 50 at Wintersett Res. on 27th, *ca* 35 at Fairburn Ings on 26th and 35 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st May. Tophill Low Res. had 65 on 15th May falling to 20 by 24th (NAB. PWI). 200 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 27th April was exceptional. Wintersett Res. had 100 on 23rd August and a roost at Denaby Ings had 200 on 5th August.

Autumn passage at Spurn from mid-August to early October with a peak of 38 on 21st August in which month 220 flew south. 36 birds flew south during September. The last inland birds were two at Mickletown Ings on 5th October and one at Selby on 28th (MKW).

Birds showing characters of the Blue-headed nominate race *M.f.flava* occurred at Cayton, Flamborough, Spurn and Hornsea Mere during late April to early June and in August/early September, some 18 birds being involved. Inland records came from Knaresborough Ringing Station, Gouthwaite Res., Nosterfield G.P. (4 on 19th April), Mickletown Ings, Fairburn Ings, Naburn S.F., Blacktoft Sands and Wheldrake Ings. All records were between 29th April and 18th June, the latter at Fairburn Ings.

Birds showing characters of *M.f.thunbergi* were at Spurn on 4th and 29th May, Hornsea Mere from 13th to 15th May (RGH. DEM) and Flamborough on 14th May, 21st to 25th May and 3rd June (PAL. IS. AG).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

A male at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 24th April (GDM)) was the first accepted record for Yorkshire although a previously rejected record is to be reviewed.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

All records in V.C. 61 come from the estuary and coast and involve wandering birds. Recorded at Hornsea, Spurn, Filey, Grimston, Humber Wildfowl Refuge and Tophill Low Res. Only four spring records; one at Hornsea Mere on 5th March and singles on 19th and 24th March and 1st and 8th April at Spurn.

In autumn, from 29th July at Spurn to December, mainly singly but three on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 5th November (ACh). Spurn's birds were mainly flying south and *ca* 30 birds did so.

Well distributed along suitable foothill rivers and upland streams in V.C.'s 62, 63, 64 and 65.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

130 roosted on buildings at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd April (PB. PWI). Up to 1,500 roosted on girders in York Railway Station during the winter months (MR). A roost at Swillington Ings had 136 on 22nd September, 412 on 23rd and only 39 on 24th (JW). The roost on the islands at Farnley Valley Res. Bradford had 439 on 8th October, 522 on 11th,

424 on 18th and up to 100 to month-end. Several hundred collected on the mud at Gouthwaite Res. each evening during August/September before going off to roost. 150 roosted in bracken on Ilkley Moor during October/November (LGD). 400 attended a roost at Highfields Lake, Doncaster during November.

The usual passage at sewage farms and inland waters during the spring contained several 'whites' and records of the nominate form came from many waters in all vice-counties, mainly V.C.'s 63 and 64. One to three birds were involved, mainly singles and from late March to the end of May.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very few records: during the early part of the year there were ten at Scarborough on 8th January (FT), singles at Newby on 22nd January and again on 25th February (DH. *et al*), one near Huddersfield from 1st to 7th January and two on 20th and 21st January. In such a poor year it was even more surprising for two birds to appear in a Knaresborough garden on 5th July where one had been on 29th May 1977 (FS).

Five flew south at Grimston on 5th October (AWW), one was inland at Elland on 9th December and two at Scarborough on 28th December (JW).

Dipper Cinclus cinclus

Status in the western and northern parts of the county appeared to be normal. There were no records from V.C. 61.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

In spite of the cold weather during February, the species had a good breeding season and several areas reported good numbers. 62 breeding pairs on Askham Bog were logged during Common Bird Census work (DJB. DW). *Ca* ten pairs bred along Bempton Cliff top (SR).

Dunnock *Prunella modularius*

Common and widespread with suggestions of a successful breeding season. An influx at Spurn in October with 70 on 8th and 50 on 9th and 45 were at Grimston on 13th October (AWW).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Evidence of passage on the coast in spring when there were 75 at Grimston on 1st May (AWW) and 70 at Flamborough on 2nd, all of which were considered to be of the continental race. This race is appreciably greyer on the back and more yellowish-orange on the breast and racial determination in this case is possible in the field in optimum viewing conditions. The time and place would indicate this race in any case. Spurn had its spring maximum of 24 on the same date.

An influx during early October when Spurn had 25 birds on 1st and there were 60 at Grimston on same date (AWW).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One at Flamborough on 29th April (PAL. IS). One at Spurn on 20th May and one singing at the Warren on 22nd and 23rd May.

One sang on Thorne Moors on 7th and 18th May. A pair reared one young in the Worsborough area and there were three singing males in an area east of Doncaster.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

A female at Flamborough from 29th April to 1st May (PAL. IS. DIMW). On 21st May after dense fog in the morning there were three males and a female at Filey (TIC. HJW. *et al*), a male at Flamborough, a male and a female at Bempton (DIMW. AJ) and a bird at Spurn. Spurn had singles on 22nd and 23rd and the Filey birds were still present on 22nd and the female o n 23rd. All the males were of the Red-spotted race *L.s.svecica*.

The only autumn record was one at Filey on 14th October (AMP).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

One was at Spurn on 4th January. One at Flamborough on 19th March followed by two on 30th and three at Spurn on 31st. A few others occurred along the coast during this period with maximum of five at Flamborough on 9th April and a small second push in May with maximum of four at Flamborough on 14th. Single birds occurred in June at Spurn on 8th and 10th, Hornsea on 21st and Flamborough on 25th and two at Spurn on 23rd August.

First autumn birds were at Spurn on 7th October when there were one to seven on several dates during the month and one from 2nd to 7th November. One to two occurred at Flamborough, Grimston, Kilnsea and Mappleton on a few dates during the same period. Singles at Flamborough on 16th November and Withernsea on 27th with one at Barmston on 9th December when three occurred at Filey, one remaining to 17th (AB. HJW).

Inland records were relatively numerous in V.C. 63: single birds in Sheffield on 20th February, Denaby Ings on 17th April, a male in Huddersfield Town Centre from 12th to 26th June with a second bird on 14th and one on 6th July (HDL. *et al*), Deer Hill on 29th July, Monk Bretton on 12th August, two at Bradshaw, Halifax from 16th August to 16th September (IHD. *et al*), Ossett on 20th November and Doncaster on 18th November. Bred in Sheffield city again but no details received. One was at Wetherby on 3rd April and one on Skipwith Common on 10th April (PP). A pair bred at Goole docks and young were being fed in June (per AG).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first and early was one at Ben Rhydding on 13th April (HG), the next being at Filey and Thrybergh Res. on 23rd and near Ilkley on 24th. Population still down on former years but some evidence of an increase in some parts. The last inland birds were at Headingley on 21st September, Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th and Wath Ings on 3rd and 6th October.

Coastal passage was light: Flamborough had 18 during 21st to 23rd May with 12 on 24th and Filey its maximum of six during this period. Spurn had very few with a maximum of eight in early May. Autumn passage also involved few birds: Spurn had 15 on 7th September and a late push in October with 40 on 1st, 46 on 2nd, 15 on 3rd and fewer to 26th. Flamborough had 40 on 1st October when there were 20 at Grimston. One at Filey on 10th October, one at Grimston on 12th (AWW) and two at Flamborough on 15th (AG).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The only breeding record reported in V.C. 61 came from Tophill Low Res. where birds fed young on 9th July (PWI. PB).

One at Knotford Nook G.P. on 26th April was the first followed by singles at Fairburn Ings on 20th and Filey on 29th.

Coastal passage from mid-May with peaks of ten at Flamborough on 21st and 16 on 25th. Spurn had up to 20 during the first week of May. In autumn Spurn had up to 30 during early September, the largest assembly along the coast.

Some birds lingered inland into October with two at Fairburn Ings on 6th, one of which remained to 22nd and singles at Monkton on 4th, Ingbirchworth Res. on 7th, Blacktoft Sands on 9th and Royd Moor Res. on 12th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

V.C. 61: Spurn had up to four in January with six on 21st, up to three in February and singles on two April dates and 21st May. A juvenile from 27th August to 3rd September, up to three birds in September, and up to nine on several dates to year-end. One to two birds at three other places along the coast and near Hull during January/February and singles at Flamborough on 30th March and 16th April. A male of one of the eastern races was at Flamborough on 1st May and another on 25th (AG. PAL. DIMW). A juvenile at Cherry cobb Sands on 25th June (MT), two at Filey on 9th September and singles at Hornsea on 16th September, Flamborough on 11th October and Grimston on 29th October.

V.C. 62: No records received although there must have been some; see previous reports.

V.C. 63: One to three at many localities during January to March and four at Elland and Wath. Singles at three places in April. A pair on Burbage Moor on 4th May and two at Tinsley on 2nd. One at Wath Ings on 31st August and one to two at four localities in September. One to three at 15 localities during October to year-end with four at Withens Res. on 7th October, four at Blacktoft Sands on 30th October and up to four at Wath Ings.

V.C. 64: One to two at nine localities during January to April, mainly in the north-west. Settle had three near Clapham on 2nd February. One was on Ilkley Moor on 14th June (LGD) and single birds at two sites in Upper Nidderdale on 6th and 31st May. Occurred at ten places from October to year-end, mainly singly but two at some localities and up to four at Knostrop. None was seen on Swarth Moor where breeding has occurred in the past two years.

V.C. 65: Singles at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 22nd January and near Hawes on 2nd April.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first was at Digley Res. on 11th March with the next at Wintersett Res. on 22nd. A few others occurred before the month-end but the general arrival was not until early April. A pair near Kilnsea on 11th June of which the male was performing distraction display (SML) and a fluffy juvenile at Flamborough on 9th July was thought to be of local origin (DIMW). Spring passage was good in May: Flamborough had 60 on 2nd, 75 on 3rd and 120 on 7th. Filey had 55 on 1st, 25 on 3rd, 47 on 6th and 38 on 7th. Spurn had 38 on 1st, 33 on 4th, and 28 on 6th. 34 were at Hollym Carrs on 8th. Several individuals showing characters of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa* were recorded during May, both on the coast and at several inland localities.

Autumn passage involved fewer birds and maxima at Spurn were up to 40 at the end of August and up to 30 in mid-September. Numbers elsewhere were much smaller.

Late birds were two at Spurn on 28th October and one at Cherry Cobb Sands on 6th November (MT). Inland, one was at Blacktoft Sands on 17th and one at Wath Ings on 28th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Inland birds are always the first to arrive and seem to go straight to the moorland breeding sites. One at Digley Moor on 16th March was the first followed by one at Kilnsey Crag on 19th. Inland passage birds were one at Fairburn Ings on 23rd April and near Leeds on 29th.

Coastal passage started on 29th March at Spurn with others at Flamborough during the next few days. 18 at Flamborough on 1st May when 11 were at Spurn. On 2nd May, 52 were at Flamborough, an exceptional number for the county (AG. PAL. IS). Only 15 remained next day. The movement was reflected at other places along the coast. Very few passed in autumn, the maximum being three at Hornsea on 26th October.

Late birds inland were at Pannal on 12th October, Staveley Lagoon on 14th and three at Burbage on 23rd.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The *thrush* influx in October brought good numbers of this species: 400 at Spurn on 26th and 600 on 27th and 1,000 at Hornsea on 26th being the largest counts but an earlier arrival on 10th to 14th was evident further up the coast and at Scarborough 'many' Blackbirds were involved on 13th and 350 on 14th. A second big influx at the end of November with 600 at Flamborough on 25th and 700 at Spurn on same day with 200 on 26th and 300 on 27th. Increases in birds inland during December obviously reflected this influx.

A completely white bird with dark eyes and yellow bill was at Adel, Leeds during most of the year (first seen in 1977) and a similar bird was at Huby, near Otley on 17th May.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Very numerous in the early months when large flocks were widespread during January/ February. Maxima were 1,500 near Settle on 2nd January, 1,500 near East Cottingwith on 5th February and several flocks of up to 500. The return passage started in March and continued into May. Flocks of up to 500 were seen at many places and some larger ones at several. 1,000 flew over Dallowgill Moor on 4th April, 3,000 flew north east over Hutton Magna on 7th April and 1,500 were at Rosscars, Selby on 6th May.

Movement on the coast did not involve large numbers and Spurn's maximum was 250 on 6th May. 450 were at Flamborough on same day and 150 at Filey. Late birds passed into late May with singles at Spurn on 26th and 31st. Flamborough had good numbers during the month with 55 on 16th, 45 on 23rd and ten on 25th. One was at Weeton on 1st June and two at Flamborough on 11th June. Most inland areas were clear of birds by 11th May but one was at Hatfield Moor on 28th.

First of autumn and unusual was at Tophill Low Res. on 28th July (PWI) followed by one at Spurn on 19th and 21st August. A few arrived during September but the main influx was in October and later than usual. The first big arrival was on 26th when 8,000 came in over the sea at Spurn, 2,600 at Hornsea, 550 at Grimston and 200 in two hours at Filey. Inland areas witnessed the same movement during the next few days and several localities in V.C.'s 63 and 64 had large flocks passing west, the largest being 1,000 over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 27th. Large flocks at the year-end included 2,000 at Fairburn Ings on 20th November and 1,100 at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th November. A pair summered in the Washburn Valley but no evidence of breeding (FAW).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Birds with the greyish upper-parts of the continental race are usual along the coast during return passage in spring and Flamborough had *ca* 100 such on 2nd May.

An autumn influx of *thrushes* during 11th to 14th October involved this species and 350 were at Flamborough on 12th and 150 at Hornsea on same day, 300 at Spurn and 500 at Scarborough on 14th and smaller numbers noted at several other coastal localities during the period. Fog and drizzle with a light north-easterly wind during the morning on this day was perfect for such a fall.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numbers inland during the early months were large and many places in V.C.'s 63 and 64 had flocks of up to 400 to 500. 1,000 roosted in the Harrogate Pine Woods in early January and 4,000 roosted in rhododendrons at Stainborough Castle during the same period. 'Hundreds' were on wet grassland at Sunk Island on 5th February (BSP). Most inland birds had departed by end of April. One was in full song and displaying at Ilkley on 9th May (LGD. *et al*) and one was at Fairburn Ings on 16th May. Some late birds were recorded along the coast with singles at Thornwick Bay on 20th May and Flamborough on 23rd and 25th May and 5th June (AG) and at Spurn where there were 11 on 23rd May and one on 6th June.

First of autumn was at Hornsea on 14th September (WFC), Filey on 23rd and Spurn on 28th. Small numbers trickled in thereafter until early October when the *thrush* influx of 11th to 14th brough 1,100 at Flamborough and 1,500 at Spurn on 11th, 3,500 at Scarborough, 4,000 at Spurn and 3,700 at Filey on 14th. A second arrival on 26th when Spurn had 5,000 coming in over the sea, Hornsea had 800 and Filey had 700.

Single *leucistic* birds were at Askham Bog from 4th to 14th January (DRF) and at Withernsea on 3rd February (SML).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The usual large flocks occurred in late summer and autumn. 40 flew south-west over Ryther on 20th July, 40 at Allerton Park during mid-September, 51 at Copgrove on 18th September, 50 on telegraph wires in Commondale on 24th August (MC) and several others of up to 30 birds, mainly in V.C. 64.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first of spring was one at Scalby on 20th April, then singles at several places from 23rd. Breeding birds were most frequent in the carr lands of the south in V.C. 63.

Most birds had deserted breeding areas by mid-August, one at Fairburn Ings on 23rd and one at Almholme on 8th September being the last.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

One singing at Flamborough on 6th May (PAL. IS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Widespread and common in the traditionally favoured sites: Fairburn Ings had 35 pairs. Mickletown Ings had *ca* 45 males, Blacktoft Sands had 50 males and Wintersett Res. had 35 pairs. Breeding success at the last two sites was poor due to cold, wet weather.

There was no evidence of passage along the coast except for a few at Spurn mainly during September with maximum of six on 12th.

First of the year was one at Loversall Grange Carr in V.C. 63 on 17th April.

The last birds recorded were one at Wath Ings on 28th September and two at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd October.

Marsh Warbler *Acroceophalus palustris*

One in full song at Wheatcroft, near Scarborough on 1st June (MF).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One at Hornsea Mere on 23rd April was the first. Breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings were 50% down on recent years to 12 pairs. In contrast, Potteric Carr had an estimated 100 pairs. *ca* 450 pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands but success was low due to the cold, wet weather. Breeding at Hornsea Mere was normal (see previous reports). Very few passed along the coast and Spurn had birds on only one spring date and one to two on a few dates during the autumn, mainly in early October. Flamborough had a few records of *unstreaked acrocephalids* on five dates in August (1), September (1) and October (3). The last bird was at Blacktoft Sands on 19th October.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One trapped and ringed at Kilnsea on 9th September (JSG. DH. BRS. *et al*). A new species for the county list.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One at Filey on 21st May and one found dead there on 27th may have been the same bird (HJW). Singles at Flamborough on 22nd May and 5th June (AG. PAL. IS). One at Kilnsea on 28th May and one singing at Spurn Warren on 31st. In autumn, Spurn had one on 19th August, one on 3rd September and two on 7th September. One was in Kilnsea on 7th and 8th September (NPS) and one at Flamborough on 8th. One at Grimston on 16th September (AWW).

One occurred inland at Harrogate S.F. on 15th September and was watched as it fed in an apple tree (JH. AFGW. *et al*). The third inland record for the county.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Very few records compared with 1977. Spurn had one on 5th September, two on 6th and 7th, and on 6th October and one from 14th to 28th October. Singles in Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 7th/8th September and 13th October. None was recorded at Flamborough.

A first-year bird was caught and ringed inland at Sprotborough Flash on 20th August (KHP. BR. RJR).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first birds were two at Hackenthorpe (V.C. 63) on 25th August. Breeding records were numerous and indicated a continued increase. Absent from the north-west of the county. One at Fairburn Ings on 21st September was late. A light spring passage on the coast in early May with six at Spurn on 1st, eight on 6th and 11 on 7th and four at Filey, four at Seamer, and ten at Flamborough on 6th as maxima.

Passage along the coast continued into October with singles at Spurn on 1st, 19th to 22nd, 29th and 31st and one at Flamborough on 1st was thought to be of the Siberian race (PAL. DIMW), the likely origin of most late passage birds.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One near Doncaster on 16th April was the first but the main influx did not occur until the last week of the month and in early May. Breeding records suggest a continued increase. Spring passage along the coast in late May with 14 at Flamborough on 23rd as maximum. Spurn had 21 on 19th August and 20 on 20th and the last, two on 3rd October. One at Grimston on 18th October was the last (AWW).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One at Bretton Park on 30th April was the first. Coastal passage was very light and Spurn had maxima of ten on 6th September and 14 on 7th and Flamborough had six on 1st October as the peak.

This species always passes late and Spurn had three on 15th and one on 21st October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were again numerous: a male at Naburn S.F. on 16th November and a male at Cottingham on 16th February. V.C. 62 had a male near Scarborough on 9th January and a bird at Easingwold on 5th November. V.C. 63 had a female at Huddersfield on 18th February, a male at Bewerly from 21st February to 9th March, a male at Sheffield on 20th/21st February and a bird at Cawthorne during January and February. A male in Bretton Park from 22nd to 26th December and a female on 9th December and a male near Halifax in late December. One at Wintersett Res. on 4th/5th November could have been a late passage bird. V.C. 64 had a similar number of records with a pair near Leeds during the winter, a male at Thorpe Arch on 8th January and a female at Bramhope from 11th to 17th February. A female near Settle on 24th November. A male at Harrogate from mid-February to early March and a female at a different locality on 14th and 17th February. A male in Tadcaster Road, York on 20th/21st November. One or two wintered near Richmond in V.C. 65.

The general spring arrival was during the third week in April. Birds always pass late and October records inland are normal.

Coastal passage peaked during the first week of May. Several passed into October and Spurn had 17 on 20th. A few passed along the coast in November with singles at Spurn on 9th and 16th December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Singles at Spurn on 7th/8th October, 11th/12th October and 14th October. One at Flamborough on 1st October (DIMW). Dane's Dyke on 10th October (DIMW) and Flamborough from 12th–14th October (AG. PAL. DIMW).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

One at Spurn from 14th to 16th October was caught and ringed on the first date (JA. BRS. RS. *et al*). A new species for the Yorkshire list. See Plate 2.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Plate 2: (Upper) Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Spurn, Yorkshire. 14th to 16th October 1978, caught and ringed on first date. A new species for the county list. (Lower) Barry Spence holding the Radde's Warbler for photographers before its release.
Photos: J. W. Hartley.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sybillatrix*

Not a common passage bird along the coast although more have been detected in recent years than formerly. 1978 was a good year for the species with ten at Hornsea Mere on 6th May, six on 7th and singles on seven dates to 21st (RGH). Three at Flamborough on 5th May (PAL. IS). Singles at Grimston on 20th May (AWW), Flamborough on 21st and two on 22nd (PAL. KR). Two were at Seamer, Scarborough on 6th May (RHA), and three in Duncombe Park on same date (DJB). One was at Spurn on 16th May. Several places inland had their first birds on 6th May and there was obviously a large influx on that date. The first of the spring however was some two weeks earlier at Malham Tarn woods on 24th April with the next at Frickly Park, Bretton Park and the Rivelin Valley on 28th. One at Fairburn Ings on 13th May was only the fifth passage bird for the reserve.

There were four records of singles on the coast in autumn: Flamborough on 13th August, Filey on 24th, Grimston on 26th and Scarborough on 6th September.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were several birds in March, the first being at Walton Hall and Knotford Nook G.P. on 11th, Adel Dam, Wintersett Res. and Tilmire, near York on 12th, Harrogate S.F. on 13th and at several other localities before the month-end.

Small numbers passed along the coast through October into November and December. Spurn having singles on 4th/5th November and Flamborough had two on 29th November (DIMW), two on 10th December, when one was also at Filey (PAL. HJW) and one on 17th December (PAL. IS). One at Spurn from 15th to 21st October was showing characters of the race *P.c. tristis*. Late inland birds were at Royd Moor Res. on 3rd October and Fairburn Ings on 14th October. One was at Fairburn Ings from 16th to 26th February.

Addition to 1977 Report: One at Naburn S.F. on 16th November and two on 27th December (TEB, EBB).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first were on 1st April when birds were at Denaby Ings, Hatfield Moor and Fairburn Ings (3). Wentworth Park, Nostell and Wintersett Res. each had one on 2nd and a few other localities had birds during the next four days. It was the third week of the month before the species was well distributed.

The main departure was during mid-September but some passed into October and seven inland sites had singles up to the 14th.

Coastal passage at Spurn and Flamborough was light in autumn but at Grimston there were treble figures regularly with maximum of 285 on 25th August (AWW).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A coastal influx on 1st October when Spurn had 45, Flamborough had 55 and Grimston had 50. Birds were evident at these places next day with 50, 60 and 50 respectively. 75 were at Flamborough on 15th October. Some inland areas had a noticeable increase during this period.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Singles at Flamborough on 29th March (DMP) and 15th to 21st October (AG. PAL. DIMW). One at Burniston on 23rd April (MF. AD–. A female was inland at Askham Bryan on 11th April (DB).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

After singles at Bretton Park on 1st May and Elland on 8th, there was a very widespread arrival on 6th when birds appeared at many localities. Most inland areas were deserted by mid-September, a few birds lingering to month-end. Some passage along the coast into October, the last being three at Flamborough and one at Spurn on 1st and one at Flamborough on 15th.

Evidence of passage in late August when 22 were at Grimston on 25th and 49 next day (AWW). Spurn did not witness this movement and had maxima of eight on 24th August and 12 on 10th September.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Singles at Spurn on 7th and 8th September, Flamborough on 1st October (DIMW), Kilnsea on 3rd (PP), Flamborough on 10th (DIMW) and Grimston on 10th/11th (AWW).

Addition to 1971 Report: One was at Gateforth, nr. Knottingley in May (BB. PTT. CW).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A male at Hackenthorpe on 25th April followed by one at Bretton Park on the 26th were the first. Spurn had more than usual in spring after one male on 29th April there were five on 30th, eight on 1st May and six on 4th. Eight were at Flamborough on 7th May and a second small influx on 23rd (7).

In autumn, Spurn had passage from mid-August to mid-September and a few up to one on 12th October. Maxima were 50 on 6th September, 60 on 7th and 13 on 8th. Flamborough and Grimston had smaller numbers during the same period. Late coastal birds were two at Flamborough on 15th October and one at Grimston on 16th.

Beared Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Two pairs bred successfully at Hornsea Mere, maximum otherwise being five on 12th February. Tophill Low Res. had up to four in January and two in September. Eight were at Saltend on 15th January (IF) and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 26 on 12th October, 44 on 14th, 29 on 28th and 20 on 21st November (ACh), presumably reflecting dispersal from Blacktoft Sands. Blacktoft Sands had 400 in January and 300 in early February falling to 100 by the month-end during cold weather. The early breeding success was average but second and third broods were poor due to cold wet weather. *ca* 600 present in autumn with a small irruption during the period 16th September to early November. 200 remained in December (AG). A few areas in the general vicinity had up to 15 on some dates in February/March and September.

One or two birds occurred at six inland waters in V.C. 63 during January to April and October and at Fairburn Ings on three January dates with maximum of seven on 14th January. One caught at Allerton Park on 8th January, two at Ben Rhydding from 1st to 4th April and two at Swillington Ings on 22nd April. Two were at Wheldrake Ings on 18th November. Spurn had two on 28th October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Some large flocks at both ends of the year included 35 on Thorne Moors on 15th January, 40 at Harrogate S.F. on 25th January, 40 at Wintersett Res. on 21st October where 65 were ringed during September/October, 30 at Eccup Res. on 17th November, 40 on Skipwith Common on 12th November and 60 at Askham Bog from October to year-end. There were many other flocks of up to 20 birds.

Birds along the cliff tops at Grimston in October with a maximum of 20 on 16th suggested passage (AWW) and Spurn had 16 on 27th October.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Relatively scarce throughout the county. V.C. 63 listed only six localities, four of which had only single records of one bird. King's Wood, Rotherham had six on 15th January and a breeding pair. Breeding records elsewhere were very few. One at Grimston on 21st September was only the second record there in eight years (AWW).

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Much more numerous than the last species and records came from many areas, especially in V.C. 64 with a good number of breeding records. One at Fairburn Ings on 13th May showed characters of the larger, pale Northern form (KRM. *et al*).

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Large numbers (probably up to 100) in Black Wood, near Wheldrake during January/February (TED. EBB), 65 at King's Moor Plantation on 2nd September (DW) and 30 in Bishop Wood, Selby on 29th October (DRF). *ca* 30 were in Harewood Park in September and *ca* 25 at Eccup Res. in July.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Coastal passage during the autumn was quite marked with 35 on Long Nab, Burniston on 25th, 31 at Spurn on 27th, 30 at Scarborough on 28th, and 45 at Spurn on 30th where there were 50 on 2nd October and 30 on 3rd. 80 flew south at Grimston on 30th September (AWW).

60 were in a plantation at Tophill Low on 6th December.

Several inland areas had good numbers from July indicating a successful breeding season. 45 pairs bred at Askham Bog (32 in 1977) (DB. *et al*).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Indications of a successful breeding season with good numbers in early autumn.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

No records from V.C. 61. Occurrences in the north and west of the county were normal.

Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*

Occurred normally throughout the county.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A female at Spurn on 10th June.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Occurred along the coast from Spurn to Scarborough on several dates from 7th to 27th May mainly during the period 20th to 24th. Maxima were three males and one female at Flamborough and a male and female at Winsetts on 23rd. A female was at Spurn on 13th June.

In autumn birds occurred from 5th August to 16th September, mainly singly with two at Flamborough on 26th August and again on 9th September.

A male was inland at Denaby Ings on 25th May (CCR) and one was near Richmond on 10th August (AJR).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

A relatively poor year: Coastal occurrences were few and Spurn had only one in spring on 1st May. Flamborough had one on 9th April and Filey had one from 4th to 9th April. Three singles were in the Scarborough area on 11th March, 4th to 6th April and 15th April.

Singles occurred at only seven localities in V.C. 63 from January to 8th April and six localities from 8th October to year-end. There were no records in V.C. 64. One was on Strensall Common from 5th March to 18th April, two on 5th November and one on several dates in late November and December.

Coastal records at the year-end were few: singles at Flamborough and Spurn on 1st October with two at the former next day. One at Filey on 14th October and singles at Spurn and Seamer on 3rd December.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One at Dunsville, near Doncaster on 28th May (SW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Four flew very high to the south over Hornsea on 15th October (WFC). One caught a House Sparrow at Broshett Wood, near Appleton Roebuck on 13th July (DW).

Magpie *Pica pica*

The usual roosts in the south of V.C. 63 and some large flocks elsewhere: 25 at Askham Bog on 4th March, 22 on 22nd April and 38 on 14th October (DW) and 50 were in fields around the area on 16th December. Fairburn Ings had 20 on 6th November. 60 were in Farnley Park on 17th February, 60 in Western Flats Park, Leeds on 3rd March, 54 at Adel Dam in March and 75 there on 26th November. At Shadwell, Leeds, a bird developed the habit of hacking open egg cartons delivered early in the morning and sucking the eggs. The species is thriving unmolested in suburbia.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Plentiful in most areas throughout the county with some large roost flights reported. 800 passed over each evening near Appleton Roebuck from October to year-end (DW). 1,200 over Shadwell, Leeds in November, 1,250 over Eccup Moor on 11th November and 1,550 over Rawdon Hill, near Leeds on 18th November. 1,900 attended the *corvid* roost at Hornsea Mere on 9th December.

800 were feeding on ploughed land at Copgrove on 28th January.

Very few seen along the coast in autumn but some come in with Rooks and the Scandinavian form with a slightly paler head and a whitish patch at the sides of the neck should be looked for.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

4,500 were at the Hornsea Mere roost on 9th December (see Jackdaw and Carrion Crow). The largest roost flight inland was 4,500 over Adel Dam on 26th November.

A *leucistic* bird was in the Lower Derwent Valley for the third consecutive year (18th February) (ARP).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*

Very common in some localities with several large roost gatherings. The largest was at Ogden Res. where up to 300 were counted during January to March and November/December.

Coastal passage was noted at Flamborough and Spurn in April/May. Flamborough had 180 on 9th April, 80 on 15th and 40 on 1st May. Spurn had 20 on 15th April and 40 on 22nd.

A white bird was shot on Stainburn Moor in May (GTF).

Hooded Crows *C.c. cornix* occurred along the coast in small numbers during January to May, maxima being four. The only autumn records were singles at Spurn on 18th and 27th November. Two birds showing intermediate characters were seen; one at Filey on 29th April and one at Wilsthorpe on 23rd May. One inland at High Hoyland in January was shot. One was on Strensall Common on 15th/16th April.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Four flew over Addingham Moorside, two of which were displaying on 7th October (LGD). Singles seen in Crummockdale on 6th July, Cockett Moss on 15th October, Stang Forest (V.C. 65) on 29th January and in Widdale on 17th August. Becoming scarcer now in the county. A pair bred successfully on Pen-y-ghent.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Large numbers came in along the coast as usual during October/November with 2,000 counted coming in over the sea at Spurn on 27th October and many others along the peninsula during the period. The regular roosts involving many hundreds of birds occurred during the winter months, the largest being 100,000 at Selby Railway Station during January/February (PR). A juvenile roost in young conifers at Tosside during late August contained 50,000 birds.

A *leucistic* bird was at Commondale on 28th January (MC) and one at Naburn S.F. during mid-May (TED, EBB).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

At Frickley Colliery, South Elmsall a chick hatched in the actual mine in late October and fledged successfully. A few birds have lived below ground in recent years but this is the first proof of successful breeding.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

ca 40 pairs bred along the Bempton Cliffs (SR). Several large flocks in V.C. 63 with 400 at Wintersett Res. on 8th September and 200 at Carlton Marsh, Deffer Wood and Denaby Ings in January/February. V.C. 64 had 200 at Hay-a-Park G.P. and 150 at Farnham G.P. in January. Spurn had birds flying south in autumn with maximum of 208 on 6th October.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Movements over Blackmoorfoot Res. in late autumn were interesting: a total of 900 flew west and south from 8th October to 5th November; maxima were 200 on 12th October, 210 on 21st, 192 on 29th and 112 on 5th November. 200 were at Wortley on 29th October and 500 in Wentworth Park on 29th December. A spring flock at Arthington Pastures built up to 300 by 13th May and decreased quickly thereafter. There were several flocks of *ca* 100 mainly in the western half of the county but 200 at Bickley, near Scarborough on 15th January, 150 at Commondale on 8th January and flocks of 100 at Cloughton and Wykeham in January. Passage at Spurn during the autumn had peaks of 270 on 12th October and *ca* 50 on four other days to 7th November.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Well distributed throughout most of the county but numbers relatively low, most areas having flocks not exceeding 50 birds. Exceptions were 150 in Allerton Park during February, 150 at Midhopestones on 8th March and 250 at Upper Ewden on 29th October.

The October influx along the coast involved only small numbers. Flamborough having maxima of 50 on 12th and 160 on 13th. Up to 60 were at Grimston during the latter part of the month and Spurn's peak was during the 12th to 16th when up to 70 were recorded.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

One caught at Spurn on 14th February.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Several flocks of 100 to 200 during the autumn and winter months, mainly in V.C.'s 63 and 64 but 600 fed on stubble near Rise in V.C. 61 on 14th January (SML). The only other flocks in excess of 200 were 630 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th January, 470 near Scorton (V.C. 65) on 18th January and 700 on Hatfield Moor on 11th February.

Birds passed south at Spurn in autumn with daily maxima of 645 on 12th October and 448 on 1st November.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Numbers were lower than last year and there were only four flocks of 100 or more; 50 at Harrogate S.F. on 8th May increased to 100 by 10th, 130 were at Lofthouse in Upper Nidderdale on 23rd August, 100 at Knostrop on 17th September and 100 on Royd Moor on 3rd October. Birds flew south at Spurn in spring and autumn with maxima of 260 on 14th May, 340 on 27th and smaller numbers during June, 97 on 27th September and 195 on 2nd October.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

A pair bred near Langsett and reared three young and a family party of six birds was seen near Copley, Halifax on 29th June. A singing bird was in Dalby Forest on 10th June. Some were in song amongst a party of 14 in Gisburn Forest on 5th March. Up to 70 birds at one locality during the early months in the Washburn Valley and breeding proved. Up to *ca* 20 pairs considered to be present in May with much song and many juveniles in July (FAW).

Well distributed during both ends of the year but only small numbers compared with some recent winters. Flock sizes were generally below 50 and the only ones of three figures were 100 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd January and 100 at Newmillerdam on 16th April.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Southerly movement at Spurn during the autumn when 2,513 passed on 14 September days and 9,802 passed on 25 October days and fewer up to mid-November. The largest flock was 1,000 at Cloughton Wyke on 2nd January (MF).

Inland flocks were widespread at both ends of the year and were mainly in V.C.'s 63 and 64. Parties of up to 100–150 were numerous and there were some up to 250 at several places with 380 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th January. In autumn, 300 at Nosterfield G.P. on 16th September, 300 at Swillington Ings on 23rd and 24th September plus 505 flying west on the latter date. 350 on Hatfield Moors on 3rd October and 500 at Wintersett Res. on 8th October. Blacktoft Sands had 400 at a roost on 31st August and 600 on 7th September.

Twite *Acanthis flavirostris*

V.C. 63 as usual held the largest numbers: flocks in the early months were 150 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 12th March, 120 at Shroggs Park, Halifax on 10th April, and 100 on Blake Dean, Halifax on 15th April. At the year-end, flocks were numerous with 60 to 85 at five places and 100 at Withens on 30th September and 200 at Soyland on 7th October. 8 pairs bred on Sutton Moor and good numbers on the moors west of Halifax. Fewer birds than usual in the Huddersfield area. Two flocks totalling 220 at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 28th August, 200 at Dry Beck, near Settle on 20th September and 200 at Malham Tarn on 27th September. Bred on six moorland areas in the region with *ca* 40 pairs on Fountains Fell on 11th July. 60 were at Low Bishopside in Upper Nidderdale in mid-August. 15 were on the Lower Derwent on 11th February. Coastal records came from several areas, the main flocks being 60 at Flamborough on 30th September and 35 in mid-October. Spurn had southerly passage in October with daily maxima of 145 on 2nd, 90 on 3rd, 179 on 8th, 162 on 11th and 149 on 12th. Several scattered records elsewhere in the county during the non-breeding season involved single figures.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

There were several flocks during January, the largest being 180 at Azerley, near Ripon on 2nd January, 100 at Farnham G.P. on 14th January and 100 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 22nd January. 150 at Scorton in V.C. 65 on 1st January. 70 fed in a turnip field at Newby, near Scarborough on 5th January. 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th March. V.C. 63's flocks were mainly at the year-end, the largest being 100 at Potteric Carr on 7th September, 120 at Howell Wood, Dore on 16th December and 100 at Netherton in December. Askham Bog had 100 in October and 200 in November/December. 300 at Allerton Park during August and 200 at Leighton Res. on 15th October. 150 at Grimston on 30th September was an isolated peak. *ca* 80 pairs bred on Hatfield Moors.

A few birds showed characters of the Mealy Redpoll *A.f.flammea*. One to four occurred at six localities during the early months, mainly in January with nine at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 21st January. Singles were at Flamborough on 1st, 5th and 20th May and on 1st and 11th October with two on 15th (PAL. IS. DIMW).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

V.C. 61: Five over Hornsea on 5th October (WFC).

V.C. 62: Several records in the summer months from the Dalby Forest and Crosscliffe areas. Dalby had up to 15 birds during March/April and July/August and Crosscliffe had 30 on 25th March and 20 on 11th April as maxima with two to three seen in May/June.

V.C. 63: Recorded at seven localities in the western half, the maxima being at Swinden with 30 on 25th June plus a second flock of 14 on same day. Numbers at the other places did not exceed six.

V.C. 64: The Washburn Valley attracted good numbers and breeding was confirmed. Up to 45 were present in May and June with several juveniles (DMP. CGV. FAW). Six in Gisburn Forest on 5th March and two at Scaleber, near Settle on 8th June. There were no records away from the conifers.

V.C. 65: 27 in Stang Forest on 6th February (GDM).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One at Flamborough from 9th to 11th September (PAL. SR. DIMW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A female of the northern race *P.p.pyrrhula* at Spurn on 1st May was caught on 5th and remained until the 14th. Two males of this race were present on 17th December.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

V.C. 61: Singles at Hornsea Mere on 27th May (EHW) and Fulford Golf Course on 2nd June (JHL).

V.C. 62: Three at Ampleforth on 9th December (BGP). Up to six at Commondale during March and one to two up to June (MC).

V.C. 63: Singles and pairs recorded at Hardcastle Crags, Rotherham, Potteric Carr, Almholme, Haw Park, Sprotborough Plantation, Hooton Pagnell and Crookhill with three at Wintersett on 12th July and four at Frickley Park on 7th January.

V.C. 64: Recorded at six places in the Harrogate/Knaresborough area in most months, small numbers being involved with a maximum of six near Knaresborough from June to September, presumably a family party. The maximum in Studley Park was four in January. Six near Ripon on 6th April. Three at Acaster Malbis on 5th February. Up to 20 at one locality near Leeds up to 14th May but no breeding proved. Three in Haverah Park on 26th November.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Good numbers reported at both ends of the year. Filey had up to 14 in early January and a maximum of 30 on 14th increasing during the hard weather to 75 on 14th February and 60 on 19th. Five there on 31st March (HJW. VAL). Up to four were in the Scalby Mills area during February to April.

In Autumn, after the first at Flamborough on 24th September, there were up to ten birds at Filey, Barmston, Atwick, Kilnsea, Grimston, Easington and Spurn. Flamborough had seven on 12th October increasing to 30 by 22nd, then small numbers until 10th November when 22 occurred with 51 on 11th, 14 on 12th, 29 on 17th, 30 on 18th and 16 on 25th with single figures to year-end (AG. PAL. *et al*). Singles at Hornsea Mere, Faxfleet, Burniston and Scalby during October/November.

One flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 28th October and one was there on 20th November (AG). One flew over Thorne Moor on 5th November (ML).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

245 in the Kilnsea/Easington area on 21st January and on 5th February (SML). Filey had 130 on 14th February and 150 from 16th to 19th February. 40 were at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough during February.

One at Spurn on 23rd September was the first of autumn. 220 were in the Withernsea area on 25th November. 77 in the Kilnsea/Easington area on 16th December and 35 at Filey on 9th December. 20 flew south at Burniston on 3rd December. Low single figures occurred at several other coastal places at both ends of the year.

32 were on Lofthouse Moor, Upper Nidderdale on 11th February during a period of heavy snow (RE. GTF. *et al*), one at Cupwith Res. on 15th January (JB), three at Fly Flatts Res. on 13th January (IHD) and ten at Fixby Gate, Huddersfield on 22nd February (JMD).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

A bird of the lowland agriculture and relatively scarce in the north-west. There were several flocks of up to 50 birds in V.C.'s 63 and 64, a few up to 80 and larger flocks as follows: 100 in Bretton Park on 12th February and the Wintersett area during January/-February and November/December. 150 at Nostell on 12th February, 130 at Naburn S.F. during January/February, 200 at High Bradfield on 15th January and 400 at Denaby Ings on 14th February.

ca 50 were at Flamborough on 1st and 2nd May.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A male at Flamborough from 1st to 3rd May was singing on the latter date (AG. PAL. DIMW) and a female on 25th May (DIMW).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

A first-summer male at Flamborough from 21st to 23rd May was caught and ringed (AG. PAL. SR. *et al*). An adult male seen there on 4th June (PAL).

Accepted by *British birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Southerly passage at Spurn during September/October had daily peaks of 69 on 27th September, 137 on 10th October and 100 on 27th October. *ca* 100 were in the Lower Derwent valley between Bubwith and Aughton on 19th February (JHL). A roost at Allerton Park Lake during January to March held up to 300 (AGR). The breeding population at Mickletown Ings was estimated to be *ca* 100 pairs (BT). The Fairburn Ings breeding population was *ca* 100 pairs (SCM). Blacktoft Sands had 500 during January/February, *ca* 150 breeding pairs and 750 birds on 12th November (AG). 200 were at Denaby Ings on 14th February and 160 roosted at Hornsea Mere on 17th February (RGH).

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

The Hornsea Mere roost had 160 on 17th February (RGH). A roost at Wath Ings held 200 on 29th October and 400 on 2nd November. 300 roosted at Denaby Ings on 6th January and 130 at Potteric Carr on 8th January. There were several other roosts holding smaller numbers in V.C.'s 63 and 64. 60 were at Filey Brigg on 4th March and 80 near Welwick on 11th October.

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Escaped Birds

It is interesting as well as being desireable for the future to list obvious escapes from captivity. Many more birds than we learn of will be at liberty, sometimes for only short periods before succumbing but the larger species such as waterfowl and gamebirds can survive for many years in the wild. Those waterfowl which have an uncertain origin; genuine wild example, result of feral breeding or direct escape, are included in the main classified list with that proviso. A good example of this category is the Snow Goose which occurs annually and lives in Yorkshire all year round. It is doubtful if any of these records refer to genuine wild birds from the New World and most may result from an increasing feral population on the Island of Mull. In June 1980, the flock was comprised of 33 white phase, 16 blue phase and seven goslings. It must also be remembered that several British species are bred in captivity and are liable to escape. The Turtle dove is one such and there are several species of softbills in captivity. Seedeaters are the real problem and a Bradford dealer was recently disposing of 'pairs' of Yellow Breasted Buntings consisting of a male *aureola* and a female weaver bird! About twenty male Yellow Breasted Buntings were involved. The following are less traumatic:

Chinese Goose *Anser cygnoides var. dom.*

One flew north at Spurn with Canada Geese on 11th June.

Ring necked Parrakeet *Psittacula krameri*

One at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd March.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

One at Spurn on 22nd October.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

One at Spurn on 28th May.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus cucculatus*

One at Spurn on 20th August.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

One at Spurn in mid October.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports have been received during the year and those readers requiring more detailed information for any of the relevant areas should consult these.

V.C. 61: *Filey Brigg Ornithological Group* – Classified list.

V.C. 63: *Barnsley Bird Study Group* – Classified List. Short paper on Siskin breeding in area. Ringing Report.
Bradford Naturalists' Society – Classified List.
Doncaster and District Ornithological Society – Classified List and Ringing Report.
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club – Classified List and Ringing Report. Note on xanthochroic Robins at Blackmoorfoot Res.

V.C. 64: *Castleford and District Naturalists' Society* – Classified List.
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve – Classified List.
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society – Classified List.
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club – Classified List.
Wharfedale Naturalists' Society – Classified List.
York Ornithological Club – Classified List and Ringing Report.

Detailed classified lists were also published for the following well watched areas:

Mickletown Ings	B. Townend
Nostell Dam	G. Smith
Settle area	B. Shorrock
Wintersett Res.	P. Smith

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy in order that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication or forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be reduced considerably if observers will submit descriptions *as soon as possible* after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, etc. Forms, based upon the form accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committees, can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below:

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Black-throated Diver
Great Northern Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Leach's Petrel
Storm Petrel
Great Shearwater
Bittern
Spoonbill
Red-crested Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Ruddy Duck
Smew
Bean Goose
Snow Goose
Golden Eagle
Rough-legged Buzzard
Goshawk
Kite
Honey Buzzard
Osprey
Hobby
Spotted Crake
Kentish Plover
Dotterel
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Grey Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Stone Curlew
Long-tailed Skua
Pomarine Skua
Iceland Gull
Glaucous Gull
Mediterranean Gull
Sabine's Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Wood Lark
Golden Oriole
Chough
Bluethroat
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler
Barred Warbler
Firecrest
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Lapland Bunting

British Birds Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the British Birds Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347–8.

Races

All well-defined races of common species, e.g.: Blue-headed Wagtail, Water Pipit.

Descriptions should normally be furnished in support of records of migrant birds seen out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for omissions). Very many other observers sent in records and their co-operation is very much appreciated.

T. Abraham; N. Addy; D. P. Adkin; J. E. Adlard; Miss P. S. Allen; A. M. Allport; R. H. Appleby; Miss J. E. Atkinson; J. B. Baxter; D. Beaumont; J. Beaumont; N. A. Bell; P. D. Bell; C. Bielby; C. Biltcliffe; B. Bishop; P. Bishop; E. B. Blake; M. A. Blick; A. Botterill; N. A. Boustead; D. Braithwaite; D. J. Britton; M. Bruce; D. Bryan; B. Caffrey; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; M. G. Chadwick; A. Chapman; M. Charnock; M. Clark; W. A. Clarke; T. M. Clegg; E. W. Clubley; T. I. Corbett; M. Corner; Miss M. J. Couper; M. Coverdale; D. I. Crawshaw; H. Crookes; M. Crosby; J. Cudworth; W. F. Curtiss; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; L. J. Degnam; A. and J. Dennison; M. L. Denton; L. G. Dewdney; I. H. Dillingham; T. E. Dixon; G. E. Dobbs; T. E. Dolan; P. Dove; Mrs F. C. Draper; R. Dulston; P. J. Dunn; R. Evison; R. Fairclough; Miss J. Fairhurst; C. Featherstone; J. Fenton; G. T. Foggitt; I. Forsyth; L. Foster-Carter; I. Francis; M. Francis; R. A. Frost; A. Frudd; J. L. C. Gandy; M. G. H. Garnett; J. S. George; A. Gibson; H. Gooch; P. Greaves; A. Grieve; A. G. Hall; Mrs J. Hall; S. J. Halliday; A. Hately; R. G. Hawley; C. J. Hespin; D. Hewitt; J. Hewitt; P. Higson; R. Houlston; D. Hursthouse; P. Hutchinson; P. J. Izzard; P. W. Izzard; A. Jurgis; A. and I. Kimber; P. Kirk; D. Kirton; D. Ladley; H. D. Laidlaw; P. A. Lassey; J. H. Lawton; M. Limbert; S. M. Lister; V. A. Lister; R. Lumb; J. Lunn; M. Lynes; H. McLarran; D. McMillan; S. C. Madge; E. Markham; P. Marsh; M. Marshall; J. I. Martin; C. Massingham; J. R. Mather; Miss A. Mettam; A. Mitchell; K. Moir; A. Molineaux; G. D. Moore; M. Mountain; K. R. Mudd; D. E. Murray; A. R. Newby; B. Newby; F. W. Oates; B. Oliver; A. O'Neill; D. Page; J. Palmer; H. Parkin; B. S. Pashby; A. M. Paterson; B. G. Pepper; D. J. Perray; T. Piggott; P. Piringer; A. R. Potter; B. S. Preston; G. W. Priestley; W. H. Priestley; D. M. Pullan; J. Rawcliffe; P. Rawnsley; P. Reid; R. J. Rhodes; M. Richardson; C. C. Robinson; A. J. Robson; M. Rogers; S. Rooke; K. Rotherham; D. Senior; N. P. Senior; B. Shorrock; S. P. Singleton; C. Slater; G. Smith; Miss I. Smith; P. Smith; G. J. Speight; B. R. Spence; D. J. Standring; R. E. Stokes; R. G. Sturman; D. J. Sutcliffe; R. Swales; F. Symonds; D. R. Talbot; M. Tasker; F. J. Thompson; F. Tidd; M. Tierney; B. Townend; P. T. Treloar; A. Turner; J. M. Turton; C. G. Varty; A. F. G. Walker; R. J. Walker; C. Wall; D. I. M. Wallace; A. J. Wallis; A. W. Wallis; J. Ward; M. K. Ward; F. A. Wardman; F. J. Watson; D. Waudby; C. H. Wear; Mrs J. Webb; M. Wells; R. Wells; H. J. Whitehead; N. Whitehouse; F. A. Whitford; F. Wilcock; S. Wildman; M. D. Williams; C. Winn; J. Wint; P. B. Wordsworth; G. Warrilow; S. Worwood; S. Wozencroft; G. C. M. Yates; P. Young.